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## PM makes no concessions to Clinton

DAVID MAKOVSKY  
WASHINGTON

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made no discernible concessions to President Bill Clinton on Palestinian-related issues during their first meeting in Washington yesterday. Rather, he hinted at increased settlement activity in the territories, and suggested that Lebanon was the place for "peace to begin."  
Syria should halt Hizbullah attacks as the first confidence-building measure, Netanyahu added.  
A senior official said after the meeting that Lebanon was a "natural place to reach a new understanding with Syria." Carving Hizbullah is crucial to building

trust between Israel and Syria, he said. "Israel will not play the old game," of negotiating while terror continues in Lebanon.  
"I think we agree that those who are on the side of peace must show complete dedication to the fight against terrorism," Netanyahu said in a blunt message to Syrian President Hafez Assad. "Anything less will simply not do."  
At a joint press conference with Clinton in the East Room after two-and-a-half hours of talks and lunch, Netanyahu made it clear that his government is embarking upon a new course.  
When asked about settlement

policy, Netanyahu told reporters that Labor increased the settlements' population by 50% over the last four years, and "I assume that nobody here expects us to do less than the Labor government." Yet, he quickly added that no decisions have been made by the government on settlements in terms of scope or location.  
In his remarks, Clinton said settlements could be a "contentious issue" and "should be handled with great care." The language was gentler than that preferred by Clinton's predecessor, George Bush, who termed settlements an

"obstacle to peace."  
Sources say that during a meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher earlier in the day, Netanyahu pointedly refused a request to commit that no new settlements would be built. Aides to the prime minister said afterward that it was important to Netanyahu that there be no misunderstanding on this issue, as occurred after the first encounter between Yitzhak Shamir and Bush in April 1989, which soured their ties for the rest of Shamir's tenure.  
Netanyahu said he brought

Central Bureau of Statistics figures to Clinton which showed that before Labor took power in 1992 there were 96,000 settlers, while there are 145,000 living in the territories today.  
With regard to the Palestinians, Netanyahu said his government would fulfill past commitments but this requires "reciprocity," a point which took up a large amount of time during their talks.  
At the press conference, the prime minister spoke at length about Palestinian violations, including Palestinian offices in Jerusalem.  
After the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting, a senior Israeli official said Netanyahu did not tell

Clinton when he would meet with Arafat and said Israel's "study" of Hebron remains incomplete, but that he would update Clinton when a decision was reached.  
Moreover, at the press conference, while saying the "people of Gaza are suffering" due to lack of job opportunities, Netanyahu made clear the closure would be lifted when he determined the Palestinians were living up to their security commitments.  
There were implicit differences between Clinton's and Netanyahu's references to Palestinian compliance. The president sought to accentuate the  
(Continued on Page 2)



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton chat in the Oval Office prior to their private meeting at the White House yesterday.

## Relaxed Clinton, serious Netanyahu meet the press

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK  
HILLEL KUTTLER

WHITE House spokesman Michael McCurry told reporters after yesterday's Bill Clinton-Binyamin Netanyahu press conference that it was clear the prime minister "came here to have a serious meeting with the president - this was far from a get-acquainted session."  
But it was still ironic that though he is famed for being at ease in front of the cameras, a stiff Netanyahu appeared as if he could have done without the whole event. A dour expression remained on his face throughout 25 minutes of questions.  
One might have thought Netanyahu had a difficult election coming up and that the relaxed Clinton was assured of four more years in office.  
For Netanyahu, the press conference seemed like a glorified campaign appearance, as he responded to each question with a lengthy, speech-like answer. He hammered away at the Palestinians' non-compliance with the Oslo Accords and Syria's sponsorship of terrorism, and defended expanded settlement building.  
No sooner had he said all the "right" things in his opening remarks - how much he appreciated the Americans' warm welcome and hospitality, and the solid bilateral relations - than Netanyahu launched into talk about not being able to move ahead in peace talks without "reciprocity" from Israel's Arab partners.  
"On the question of security and terrorism, we cannot accept the notion that peace and terrorism can coexist under one roof," he said.

He then tackled the need for the Arab world to reeducate their youth to accept Israel as a permanent fixture in the region.  
Throughout the session, Netanyahu swiped his red pen through the air with his left hand to drive home a point, in a manner reminiscent of Bob Dole.  
Both Clinton and Netanyahu scored humor points. Asked whether he had explained to Netanyahu why he had supported Shimon Peres in the past elections, Clinton brought down the house when he said: "I don't think it needed that much explaining. Mr. Netanyahu is a very bright man."  
For his part, Netanyahu, asked to outline his government's settlement policy, said he had shown Clinton statistics showing that the Labor government had allowed the settlement population to increase by 50 percent over the past four years.  
"We assume that no one here expects us to do less than the Labor government," Netanyahu said.  
Administration officials are projecting the message that Netanyahu is a partner the president can work with.  
McCurry said Clinton "looks forward to knowing [Netanyahu] even better" and found the "personal interaction ... to be very valuable."  
As evidence, he said, Clinton took Netanyahu aside in the Blue Room following the press conference and offered to take the premier and his family on a tour of the mansion later in the day.

## Shahak blasts proposed defense cutbacks

LIAT COLLINS

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday strongly spoke out against the proposed budget cuts, telling the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the IDF is facing "a deep crisis of confidence which could have a very negative effect."  
Shahak's emotional remarks stunned members, who had not expected the chief of staff to lose his cool.  
He repeatedly used the term "very concerned" and said: "Because of the cuts, we have reached a different level of defense."  
Shahak said there is a feeling in the career army that they have become a target for the Finance Ministry.  
"In no other sector have wages been harmed but the Finance Ministry knows that we can't strike and that we don't have personal contracts," Shahak said, his remarks quoted in an official briefing. He said that he "usually sits in on cabinet meetings and hears how good things are and about the growth [in the economy] and suddenly [I] hear about how bad it is and how the military has to cut NIS 825 million."  
"The defense budget has been dropping for several years but now it is significantly low, not just in real terms," he said and presented

some examples of unexpected expenses which now come off the IDF budget. These include municipal taxes on property used by the IDF, which was previously exempt from these payments.  
"The municipal tax is at the expense of bullets," Shahak said.  
"To maintain the level of health, an additional NIS 80m. has to come out of the defense budget to pay hospital charges; for female officers serving an extra [mandatory] six months in the standing army NIS 30m. a year is required. The biggest expense is to cover the cost of the losses of Rafael [the Weapons Development Authority] at a rate of NIS 315m., which falls on the defense budget. This is without the additional cost to the IDF of NIS 200m. for Operation Grapes of Wrath," he said.  
"The IDF will do what it can to ensure maximum security, but the IDF's multi-year plan no longer exists," he added. "I have to stop projects because I can't complete them."  
The chief of staff focused on the proposed cuts of wages and benefits for the career army saying, "what has happened in the last few days following the cuts is a marked feeling of

frustration and humiliation and a feeling of injustice."  
Since the cuts were proposed, 10 officers in the communication corps and scores of officers in the computers and programming branch have asked to leave, he said. Scores of officers have asked to forgo vacation days owed them in order to quit immediately and some 200 IDF pensioners have asked to receive their pensions now as a lump sum.  
"What has happened in the last few days has caused great damage. Anyone who wants the career army to be like civil servants should understand what that means," Shahak said.  
He also complained that the IDF had not been consulted before the cuts. "I received some of the figures on Thursday afternoon; my people received the material in the evening and on Friday morning the first cabinet meeting was held and by Saturday night the final talks were taking place," he said.  
He said many of the cuts would be felt by officers when they demobilize. As an example, a major leaving the army stood to lose some NIS 100,000 if the cuts went through. He also said revoking the Demobilized

Soldiers Law would "harm morale."  
He attacked the Finance Ministry, saying the previous "soaring wage hikes had caused the economy to go mad." He said the policy of linking wages meant that a command officer or attorney earned more than the chief commanding officer.  
"I don't know why prison wardens' wages have to be linked to members of the career army or why a security man in Rafiah earns as much as a Golan company commander. I'm very worried by what's happening," Shahak said.  
At this point, an ugly exchange took place between the chief of staff and new MK Gideon Ezra (Likud), a former deputy head of the General Security Service. Ezra said he could not understand why "soldiers had to get an MA degree." Shahak replied: "I do what I have to do and I know where cuts need to be made."  
This led Ezra to tell him: "You have to carry out the government's orders and to stand in the breach." Shahak, clearly upset, responded: "I don't need you to brief me on what I have to do."  
Shahak said he was "sorry at the message being sent out to the career army. You can't  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Shahak: Syria allowing transfer of arms to Hizbullah

LIAT COLLINS

SYRIA is not preventing the transfer of weapons from Iran to Hizbullah via its territory, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.  
He said the organization had recently received a large quantity of arms, including improved Katyushas, via Damascus. The weapons include Iranian-produced 240mm. rocket-like devices and a larger capacity for explosives, but it has not been definitely confirmed that they have reached the field.  
According to Shahak, Hizbullah is going back to its original aims: bringing about the collapse of the South Lebanese Army and making things as difficult as possible for the IDF in south Lebanon. He painted a bleak picture of the situation within the SLA because of the uncertainty and problems in mobilizing recruits.  
A senior IDF intelligence officer told the committee that Hizbullah "is returning to its old patterns: fewer shells and more in-depth attacks and attacks on outposts." Yet, the officer said, he expects a cer-

tain level of calm in south Lebanon because of the upcoming Lebanese general elections.  
Shahak also discussed the incident in which three soldiers were killed in the Jordan Valley three weeks ago. "The incident involved a long list of actions below the IDF's standards - in the way the force arrived, the response and control." He said the division commander was responsible and had been removed from the post.  
This raised a debate in the committee on the limits of blame which can be placed on IDF officers. The chief of staff said "being removed from one's post is not a death sentence on a commander and it's not a punishment which says commanders are invalidated from [future] command. Being moved from one's position does not mean an officer can never command again."  
"Some of the public just want heads to roll," he said, noting there is a crisis of confidence, particularly among bereaved families, which has led them to appeal to the courts. He said this has reduced the willingness of officers to take on responsibilities.

## Ben-Porat: Rate of complaints against authorities highest in the Western world

EVELYN GORDON

THE number of citizen complaints against the government found justified by the state ombudsman is the highest in the Western world, Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday, upon submitting the annual ombudsman's report to the Knesset.  
Of the 4,404 complaints on which the office issued a ruling last year, 37.2% were found justified, up slightly from the previous year's 35%.  
"This is the highest [percentage] in the world," Ben-Porat told Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, adding that in most of the Western world, "10% is considered a lot [of justified complaints]."  
The sheer number of complaints in Israel is also high, Ben-Porat said. In total, 7,782 complaints were filed last year, up about 11% from the previous year

though since the reporting period is set according to the Jewish calendar, much of the increase is accounted for by last year's extra month.  
"All over the world, at conferences [of ombudsmen], the others are astonished by how many complaints we handle," she said.  
"This high rate indicates that something is wrong, when so many people feel themselves injured - and justly," she said.  
Later, Ben-Porat reiterated this message to the Knesset State Control Committee.  
"There is a lot to fix with respect to public servants' treatment of people," she said. "In many cases, they don't want to hear what people are saying to them."  
Ben-Porat noted that one of the main ways to fight this phenomenon is public awareness, and said she was pleased that public awareness of her office's existence appears to be high.  
Even though her office can only make recommendations, she added, "almost 100% of these recommendations are implemented," and if an organization refuses, she can ask the responsible

minister to order it to do so. No minister has ever refused such a request, she said.  
By far the greatest source of complaints continues to be the local authorities, the report noted. Ben-Porat received 1,627 complaints about local authorities last year, up from 1,347 the previous year, and 40% of those which her office finished dealing with were found to be justified. Jerusalem was the most complained-about of the major municipalities, with 157 complaints, but Bnei Brak had the largest percentage of justified complaints: 18 of the 30 on which the office issued a ruling, or 60%.  
Other major sources of complaints were the Police Ministry (650, of which 579 related to the police and the remainder to the Prisons Service), the National Insurance Institute (461) and the Treasury (447, with the largest number, 131, related to income tax). Of these three, however, the police had the lowest percentage of complaints found justified - 28% - compared to 34% for the NII and 42% for the Treasury.

In total, the office dealt with 8,361 complaints last year, of which 3,957 were closed without a ruling, either because the problem was resolved without the office's intervention, or because they were not within the office's legal purview. By the end of the year, the office's backlog of complaints had decreased slightly, from 4,724 to 4,145.  
Ben-Porat noted that her office's goal is not just to solve individual problems, but also to ensure that these problems will not recur. However, the report wryly admitted that this does not always work, and certain types of complaints do keep recurring.  
Full reports, Page 3



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# Internal Labor strife forces cancellation of leadership meeting

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MKs Avraham Shohat and Haggai Merom canceled the meeting scheduled last night for leaders of both Ehud Barak and Haim Ramon's camps in the Labor Party, due to strong opposition within the party.

Shohat and Merom had initiated the meeting, ostensibly to settle the differences between Barak and Ramon, the two rivals for Labor's leadership, and to make rules for the party's leadership showdown.

Labor Chairman Shimon Peres, who returned from the US earlier this week, was not invited to the meeting, which was initially scheduled for Monday night in a Jerusalem hotel. After the meeting was rescheduled, Peres was notified of it but declined to attend.

Shohat, who supports Barak for the party's leadership and Merom, who supports Ramon, invited the top 13 Labor MKs on the party list after Peres, after they realized that Barak and Ramon would not reconcile on their own.

Although Shohat, Barak and several others would prefer that Peres resign as party leader as soon as possible, so that a new leader can be elected, they denied any conspiracy to get rid

of Peres. "This is not a formal body," Shohat said. "Peres is the party's chairman and nobody disputes that. Can't a group of people meet without him already? It's important for the people in the faction to communicate."

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli said there was an urgent need to arrange a meeting between Ramon, Barak and their respective camps. He noted the meeting was intended to prevent the power struggle in the party from getting any more tense.

MK David Liba'i spearheaded the opposition to the meeting, which he said might be misconstrued as undermining Peres's leadership. Others thought the meeting would do more to promote the division between the Ramon and Barak camps than to heal the rift.

Yesterday, a group of MKs including Shlomo Ben-Ami, Elie Goldschmidt, Ephraim Oshaya and Shalom Simhon demanded the meeting be canceled. They regarded the meeting as an attempt to ensure the party's leadership consisted primarily of former Labor ministers.

Instead, members of the party faction met, in a meeting initiated by party whip Oshaya. Oshaya joked that he had heard the original meeting was to bring Ramon and Barak together "and as I couldn't see why they needed 11 witnesses, I decided we should all meet instead."

Ben-Ami said he resented the attempt to set party rules and determine future moves in a small forum, "as though they are still the ministers leading the party. Most of these people were on Labor's election campaign staff. Before they have accounted for what happened in the elections and assumed responsibility for the defeat, they're trying to set future patterns."

He said the entire Knesset faction should hold such a discussion, since the term "seniority" perished with the electoral defeat, which gave all the MKs equal standing. Benjamin Ben-Eliezer complained that the MKs were worsening their own situation. "Enough already with this talk of the party being in bad shape. We're not. It's just that everybody keeps talking about it all the time," he said.

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# Pinhasi may petition High Court over calls to lift immunity

EVELYN GORDON

Pinhasi is now holding hearings - chaired by another MK - on the propriety of his filling the post permanently. Among other issues, the House Committee deals with all requests for lifting an MK's immunity.

"We believe the attorney-general's decision is out of place, and we are considering our next steps on this matter," Avi-Yitzhak told the court during a hearing on a petition asking that Pinhasi not be allowed to serve as chairman of the Knesset House Committee.

One possibility, Avi-Yitzhak said, would be a petition to the court. Meanwhile, the court decided to defer the hearing on Pinhasi's fitness to chair the House Committee until after the committee itself has decided on this issue. Pinhasi has been appointed temporary chairman, but the commit-

A draft indictment prepared in 1993 accuses Pinhasi of attempted fraud, falsifying corporate documents, conspiracy and falsifying an oath.

According to the indictment, he hired yeshiva students, who are not allowed to work because they receive draft deferments, to help with Shas's 1988 election campaign. He then failed to report this to the tax authorities, and also submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller.

In March 1993, the Knesset decided to lift his immunity so he could stand trial, but Pinhasi successfully petitioned the High Court against the decision. During a revote, in July 1993, the Knesset decided not to lift his immunity.

In response to a request from the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, however, Ben-Yair decided to try again now that there is a new Knesset.

# Livnat aims to grant Arutz 7 a license

JUDY SIEGEL

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Limor Livnat intends to make it possible for the settler-run radio station Arutz 7 to broadcast legally from land instead of having to do so from a ship beyond Israel's territorial waters.

Livnat told reporters in her Jerusalem office yesterday that unlike pirate radio stations that broadcast from land, Arutz 7 does not violate the law. She noted that Arutz 7 is allowed to broadcast from the Knesset, and its reporters attended press conferences even during the Labor government.

Aware of the fact that Arutz 7 wants to broadcast nationwide instead of functioning on a limited, regional basis, Livnat said it is also possible to grant nationwide broadcasting licenses to entrepreneurs.

Regarding the dangers posed by pirate radio broadcasts to the control tower at Ben-Gurion Airport, Livnat and her director-general, Shlomo Waxe, said they would demand that the Airports Authority set up additional antennae at high points in other areas - such as from the Migdal Hayam Hatichon building in Bat Yam or in Maccabim. These additional transmitters would beam messages to the control tower.

Waxe said that although this equipment would cost money, a fail-safe system was urgently needed to avoid the dangerous situation that occurred in May, when pirate broadcasts forced the closing of the airport to air traffic.

Livnat called on police to complete their investigation of four cases against pirate stations and to present their evidence to the State Attorney's Office. The ministry would do its best to catch violators, but the lack of fines large enough to deter pirate operations and the unwillingness of the police to act effectively makes it impossible for the ministry to act alone, she said.

# Kahalani likely to meet Hussein

BILL HUTMAN

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and senior Palestinian official Faisal Hussein are likely to meet and renew the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue on the rights of Palestinian residents in Jerusalem, but not until Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returns from the US.

Palestinian and government sources said yesterday that both Kahalani and Hussein had agreed to meet, but had yet to set a date. Under the previous government, Hussein met regularly with the former internal security minister, Moshe Shahal. Kahalani told The Jerusalem Post last week that he was waiting for approval from Netanyahu to meet with Hussein.

He has apparently yet to receive the go-ahead from the prime minister but is confident he will receive it soon. During a review of police operations in Hebron yesterday, Kahalani, speaking to reporters, confirmed that he would probably be meeting with Hussein soon.

Kahalani also downplayed the importance of Jerusalem police summoning Palestinian Authority legislative council members to the Russian compound police station, a move that infuriated the Palestinians. "The purpose (of the summons) was to explain to them the regulations concerning Palestinian Authority activity in Jerusalem," Kahalani said.

The PA council members, all from the Jerusalem area, were summoned yesterday, but refused to show up at the police station. "We are acting in a spirit where we can sit down and solve problems. If that doesn't work, we will find other means," Kahalani said. The PA council members charged that Israel Police had no right to summon them.

Item adds: "Our aim is to maintain a strong [Jewish presence] in Hebron," Kahalani said during a visit to police headquarters in the town. But, he said, he nevertheless favored adhering to the Oslo Accords.

Speaking later to reporters at the Machpela Cave, where he reviewed security arrangements, Kahalani added that he did not know when the redeployment in Hebron would take place but "it is highly likely that it is being decided upon right now in Washington."

# Netanyahu letter: Jews should be allowed to pray on Temple Mount

BILL HUTMAN

JEWS must be allowed to pray at the Temple Mount despite Moslem opposition, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu maintains, in a letter presented to the Jerusalem District Court this week by former Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion.

Etzion is being tried for allegedly attacking policemen who tried to remove him from the Mount when he attempted to pray there last September. Jewish worship has been forbidden at the site since 1967, on grounds it would incite Moslems, who worship there at the Al-Aksa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

Etzion presented the letter at a preliminary hearing held on Monday. He claimed that the letter, which Netanyahu sent him in response to a query over a year ago, shows the prime minister supports changing the long-standing policy.

"I read your letter with interest," Netanyahu wrote to Etzion in March 1995. "The right of the Jewish people to its holy place - the Temple Mount - cannot be questioned. I believe it is necessary to arrange for Jewish prayer at the site, especially given that we permit freedom of worship to all the religions in Jerusalem," Netanyahu continued. "Clearly, the matter must be dealt with the sensitivity it deserves. I believe we can do this properly when we return to govern the country."

Since the election, Etzion, who heads the Hai Vakayam group, and senior figures in the National Religious Party, have called on the government to allow for Jewish worship on the Temple Mount.

# CUTBACKS

(Continued from Page 1) say that military service is important without demonstrating that it is important. Committee members discussed setting up a subcommittee to discuss the cuts, but chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said the full committee would debate the issue.

Item adds: Meanwhile, three senior officers have petitioned the High Court of Justice over the budget cuts which, they say, will affect their pension rights. They say that they had been forced by circumstances to defer vacations in the past but took into account that they would be compensated when they retire from active service.

The appellants, who are all due to retire shortly, also said they have carried a much heavier burden than the general population but are being forced to make greater sacrifices under the proposed budget cuts.

Budget stories, Pages 8 and 12

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. R/Miniz Bussey will speak on "Jerusalem YMCA Future Developments."

Anyone with information that may help in identifying this man is asked to call 07-771804, 07-771498, 02-309344, or any police station.



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) consults with Palestinian Authority Deputy Agriculture Minister Ata Abu Kirsch yesterday at the Erez checkpoint.

# Mordechai says no decision yet over whether to ease closure

STEVE RODAN

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, touring Gaza yesterday for the first time as minister, said the Netanyahu government has not yet decided whether to ease the closure of the territories.

"There have been no decisions," Mordechai said at Erez checkpoint. "I came here to learn. We will not ease up in the realm of security."

The defense minister, who served as head of Southern Command during the intifada, was briefed by senior IDF officers and toured the facilities of Erez checkpoint, the main one leading from Israel into the Gaza Strip.

IDF sources say the military has drafted new criteria meant to gradually ease the closure. One recommended step is to triple the current

number of Palestinians - now set at 20,000 - allowed to work in Israel. Police officials have opposed the plan.

Mordechai stressed that security would be his first consideration in deciding whether to accept the military's recommendations. "The system works well," he said. "We will continue to check the demands of the Palestinian Authority as long as anything does not decrease security."

The defense minister said the government's current plan to cut NIS 850 million from the defense budget would hardly be felt by

career officers. But he acknowledged that it would harm IDF plans for acquisition and training. "The cut is certainly damaging for the military," he said. "But we can deal with it."

Mordechai later met with representatives of settlers in the Gaza Strip. One of their requests was for the government to erect a fence that would separate the settlements in northern Gaza Strip from Palestinian towns and villages to the south.

The Labor-led government erected a fence north of the settlements along the old 1967 border. But officials refused to do the same in the south, saying the project would encroach on Arab property and cost too much money.

# Reform protests Bakshi-Doron's 'inciteful' remarks in sermon

HAIM SHAPIRO

DID Sephardi Chief Rabbi Elisha Bakshi-Doron incite his followers to kill the leaders of the Reform movement? The Reform leaders say yes; Bakshi-Doron says that it's a fuss blown out of all proportion by the Reform movement itself.

Speaking at a Torah lesson in a Jerusalem synagogue on Saturday night, the chief rabbi commented on the weekly portion, Pinchas, which relates that Pinchas had put an end to an epidemic by killing Zimri, an Israelite who had fornicated with a Midianite woman. Bakshi-Doron then likened Zimri to the Reform movement of today and added that in times of plague, it was sometimes necessary to take extreme action.

The chief rabbi said that just as Zimri had tried to bring non-Jews into the Jewish people, so the Reform encouraged assimilation by bringing in non-Jews with "fictitious conversions."

Bakshi-Doron noted that it is forbidden to kill, without giving a warning, without the presence of witnesses, and without the approval of the Sanhedrin. However, he continued, sometimes it was necessary to do something shocking. Pinchas, Bakshi-Doron noted, had been rewarded by God for his act.

It was true, the chief rabbi said, that it was necessary to go in the path of peace, but sometimes, he said, people had to be zealous. If there was a plague among the people of Israel, one had to do something out of the ordinary and commit an act of zealotry.

In reaction, Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, demanded that the police and the attorney-general investigate. The rabbi's words, Regev said, were a clear incitement to murder.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said he was horrified that Bakshi-Doron had implied that violence and murder were an appropriate response to those holding religious views different from his own.

"We know from the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin that words which encourage violence can have the most terrible consequences and require immediate condemnation from responsible political and religious leaders," said Yoffie, who is presently visiting Israel.

However, Bakshi-Doron yesterday denied that his words could be construed as incitement to murder. It was unthinkable, he said, speaking on Israel Radio, that anyone listening to his lecture would use his words to justify murder.

The chief rabbi added that the only reason the lecture had been reported was the desire of the Reform to attract publicity.

with those Arab leaders who are interested in seeking peace," Netanyahu said. Clinton said it is not time to discuss any cuts in the \$1.2 billion in economic aid the US gives Israel and noted that a swift cutoff could destabilize Israel's economy. Netanyahu said he had just proposed record budget cuts and hoped Israel would soon be self-sufficient. But, he said, "This doesn't mean I could do it tomorrow."

# CLINTON

(Continued from Page 1)

favorable, citing how the Palestinian Authority is doing more than the past. When Netanyahu said he did not like the terms of the Oslo Accords, Clinton spoke about the "tide of history" that was irreversible.

"I'm confident we can overcome the hurdles that face us and continue with the genuine process of seeking peace with security... We have a determination to work

# Search for missing seamen to resume

The search for the remaining Israeli seamen who went down with the *Mineral Dampier* in the East China Sea a year ago is to be resumed tomorrow, the Transportation Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said the Prime Minister's Office and the Knesset Finance Committee have approved an allocation of \$1.5 million to finance the renewed search.

**The Open University of Israel**  
mourns the untimely passing of  
**AMSHEL M.J. ROTHSCHILD**  
and offers its heartfelt condolences  
to the Rothschild Family  
and to Yad Hanadiv

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of  
our dear husband, father and grandfather  
**DANIEL FERZIGER**  
The funeral will be held today, July 10, 1996, approximately  
1 1/2 hours after the arrival of TWA fl. no. 884  
from New York, due 3:10 p.m.  
Interment will take place at the  
Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.  
For details regarding the shiva, please call 03-6922097.  
Deeply mourned by:  
His wife, Sandra  
His children, Reuven, Jonathan, Minna,  
Adam, Ari and their families

Handwritten text in a box: *אברהם יצחק*

# Police failure to cancel false records led to man's conviction

EVELYN GORDON

THE ombudsman ordered the police to refund losses which they caused a man by failing to cancel false records of a traffic violation. The man, a resident of Ra'anana, was stopped for a routine inspection by a traffic policeman, who wrote him a ticket for driving without a license and proper insurance. The ticket summoned him to a trial, but gave him five days' grace to disprove the charge by taking the appropriate documents to the police station. The man did so, and therefore assumed the trial was canceled. However, the local station failed to report that it had received the documents, so the trial was never canceled. When the man failed to appear in court, he was convicted

in absentia. The court took away his license for 12 months and fined him NIS 750. When the verdict - which did not even state for what offense he was convicted - was sent to the man, he hired a lawyer, who got the verdict canceled. The man then demanded that the police repay the NIS 1,375 he spent on lawyer's fees. The police refused, saying the man did not need a lawyer to solve the problem. However, ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat ruled that hiring a lawyer would be the normal response of an ordinary person faced with an unexplained court

verdict, and that therefore the police, whose negligence had led to the verdict, had to repay the expense. The police were especially at fault, she added, because following many similar complaints in the past, she had suggested that the police change its procedure, and it had done so three weeks before the man's ticket was issued. Under the new procedure, drivers are not supposed to be automatically summoned to trial; instead, the police are supposed to check their computers to see if the driver has valid documents. Therefore, Ben-Porat said, the policeman should never even have issued the ticket.

# Parents entitled to refund if schools misuse money

EVELYN GORDON

PARENTS have the right to know how schools use the money they are charged, and they may also have the right to a refund if the money is used for other purposes other than those for which it was collected. Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat ruled. A Tel Aviv couple had complained that their children's high school collected NIS 26,295 to purchase books, but used the money for xeroxing instead. The school also used some NIS 25,000 earmarked for hiring guards to paint classrooms, after the city agreed to pay for the guards itself.

The parents asked the school to refund these sums, but the school refused. Ben-Porat found that in the first case, the school had no right to use the money for a different purpose without the approval of the education minister, which it did not have. The second case was doubly illegal, she said, because by law parental contributions cannot be used for painting or other maintenance work at all. She therefore ordered the school to refund both sums.

The couple also complained that the school refused to tell them how money collected for a voluntary enrichment program was being spent. The Education Ministry responded that the school's only obligation was to give the breakdown to the parents' committee, rather than to individual parents. However, Ben-Porat ruled that since the right to obtain information relevant to oneself from government bodies is a fundamental one, individual parents also have a right to be told what their children's schools are doing with their money.

# Treasury ordered to reinstate employee fired for uncovering corruption

EVELYN GORDON

THE ombudsman found that a Treasury employee was fired for uncovering and reporting corruption, and ordered her reinstated. After working in a Treasury unit for seven years, the complainant was told in February 1995 that her employment would be terminated the following week. No reason was given, and she charged that the motive was her discovery that certain workers had filed false reports to receive incentive pay. Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found that in 1993, the unit decided to hire the woman, who had been employed via a temporary agency for five years, as a permanent employee. This required her to pass a civil service examination, which she failed twice. However, she was so good at her job that the Treasury hired her anyway in July 1994 - officially in another capacity, but in practice, she continued to manage the incentive pay program, as she had done since 1988. From time to time, the woman would discover that workers had filed false reports, and she would report this to her superiors. She thus incurred the enmity of the union head, who was also a department head, and from time to time he demanded her dismissal. Matters came to a crisis in

spring 1994, when the unit embarked on a project which required extra work. When the woman checked employees' reports of their work to arrange payment, she found numerous false reports from the department headed by the union chairman, such as one worker claiming credit for another's work, or workers who reported the same job twice. She reported this to her superiors, who thus withheld payment. Immediately afterward, in July 1994, the union head began a campaign against her, on the grounds that she had failed her civil service exams. In the space of three weeks, he raised the matter at a board meeting, sent a letter to the unit head and got the national Civil Servants Union to send a letter as well. He suggested finding alternative jobs for two other workers who also failed the exams, but insisted that this woman be fired. When this campaign failed to produce results, the union head wrote directly to the Civil Service Commission. The commission then spoke to the head of the unit, who agreed to fire her. However, alternative jobs were found for the other two employees. In February, when the impending

dismissal was discovered, both the woman's direct superior and the unit's comptroller wrote letters protesting the fact that they, her supervisors, had not been consulted, and asking how the dismissal could be justified when she had been an outstanding employee for seven years. The matter of the false reports and the union head's persecution was also raised. In response, the Civil Service Commission re-examined the issue, but decided again to fire her. She then complained to the ombudsman. The director of the unit told Ben-Porat there were two other reasons for firing the woman in addition to the failed exams: Manpower cutbacks, and the need to hire someone who could be trained to replace her superior, who was retiring. However, Ben-Porat found that none of these explanations held water. The failed exams were clearly not the reason she was fired, Ben-Porat wrote, since the unit hired her despite the failures, due to her outstanding performance. Staff cutbacks were also clearly not the reason, she said, since the unit was planning to replace her. The plan to hire someone new in place of the complainant, with-

out even the standard period of overlap, shows that neither the good of the unit nor its work needs were motivating the unit's management," she wrote, adding that a period of overlap would also have been the norm had the unit really been planning to hire someone to groom into a replacement for the woman's supervisor. In contrast, Ben-Porat said, the union head's animus was obvious. He had initiated the project which engendered the false reports, for the purpose of getting his workers extra money, and he had also approved the reports. In addition, he suggested finding other jobs for two others who had failed their exams; it was only this woman he wanted fired. Furthermore, she said, the Civil Service Commission should not have acted on the union head's letter, since it did not go through the unit head, and it failed to properly investigate the claim that the woman's discovery of corruption was the real motive behind her dismissal. Ben-Porat therefore canceled the dismissal and told the unit to do what it should have done before: Request an exemption for the woman from the requirement of passing the exams. Both the unit and the Civil Service Commission promised to comply.



President Ezer Weizman (right) toasts German Ambassador Theodor Wallau, who presented his credentials yesterday at Beit Hanassi. (Itzhak Harari)

# Holon faulted for drainage system that caused flood

KEREN MARKUZE

NEGLECT by the city of Holon caused the flooding of a woman's apartment, according to the state ombudsman. The municipality was ordered to pay for the damages caused to the victim's apartment due to its failure to ensure the efficiency of the city's drainage system in anticipation of severe rain. On the night of November 23, 1992 the apartment of the complainant became flooded with water after a rainfall of 75 mm. She

blamed the city, insisting they neglected to clean the drainage pipes, causing clogging and rendering them useless. The city denied responsibility, claiming an exceptional amount of rain caused the drainage pipes to fill up very quickly. They insisted they did a careful checking and cleaning of the pipes throughout October and November. In

addition, they noted the location of the complainant's apartment in the basement of a building in the lowest area of the city. The ombudsman found that because of this geographical factor, the city should have taken better precautions to ensure the safety of all apartments during times of severe rain. The city has an obligation to be cautious, the report states, and this was violated by not taking serious enough prevention measures.

# Two fired without a hearing win their jobs back

EVELYN GORDON

THE ombudsman ordered the reinstatement of two people fired from their jobs because they were dismissed without a hearing. One case involved an immigrant who had worked in Israel for three years as a music teacher - two years in the center of the country and a third year in Eilat. In May 1994, the Education Ministry informed him that he would not be rehired for the following school year, for "pedagogical reasons." The teacher complained that he was never even told why he was being fired. Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found that his supervisors in both the central region and Eilat had rated his performance as extremely poor and recommended firing

him. However, he had never been shown either of these evaluations, so he had no way of knowing his performance was unsatisfactory. Furthermore, Ben-Porat found, he was not given a hearing at which he could try to defend himself before being fired. "This is a violation of the laws of natural justice," Ben-Porat wrote. She therefore ordered that he be reinstated, and that his back salary be paid for the months in which he was out of work. The Education Ministry agreed, and he went back to work in January 1996. The second case involved a woman who had held a senior position in the Municipal Union

for Environmental Preservation since 1985. She was fired in late 1994 because her superiors said her repeated demands for better pay and benefits made her impossible to work with. However, Ben-Porat found that she had never been warned that the director was considering firing her; her original letter of dismissal gave no reason for the decision; and she was never given a chance to try to refute these charges to either the director or the board. Ben-Porat therefore ordered that the woman be reinstated, but the union ignored this directive. She therefore asked the interior minister - under whose authority the union operates - to order the union to comply, and the minister promised to do so.

## OMBUDSMAN REPORT BRIEFS

A foster family was charged NIS 62,000 in value added tax on the money it received to care for its foster children, even though VAT on such income is supposed to be paid by the Labor Ministry. Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found that the Treasury's customs and VAT division was not even aware of this arrangement, which has been in effect since 1988. In response to her ruling, the division canceled the assessment and issued a circular informing local offices of the arrangement.

A teacher fired in August 1993 received her severance pay only nine months later. The Education Ministry argued that all teachers' contracts end in August, and it does not have the manpower to handle the 300-400 severance pay claims which all come due on September 1. However, Ben-Porat said lack of manpower is no excuse for violating the law which states that severance pay must be issued the day the worker stops work. Furthermore, she noted, the ministry issues all firing notices three months in advance, which leaves plenty of time to prepare. She therefore ordered the ministry to pay the woman 10% interest on top of her severance pay.

A lawyer who wished to keep her maiden name after marrying encountered difficulties from the Interior Ministry, even though the law gives her this right. The clerk she spoke to insisted it was illegal; the director of the local office said she could do so, but only if she wrote a letter of explanation - which by law is not necessary. The director also insulted her, saying she had "no respect for men." Ben-Porat reprimanded the director and ordered him to inform his staff of the law.

A woman with a Down's Syndrome child complained that the Safed municipality placed no adult other than the driver on the bus it used to transport handicapped children to school, and that this was unsafe. The municipality said it had no money to pay for someone else on the bus and that it was the state's responsibility anyway. However, Ben-Porat ruled that the municipality is required by law to put another adult on the bus and lack of money, she said, is not an excuse for violating the law. The municipality therefore agreed to hire someone to perform this task.

The Hadera municipality failed to force a landlord to repair a dangerous building, which it is required to do by law. When a resident complained to the ombudsman, the municipality also refused to cooperate in Ben-Porat's investigation. Only after she threatened to ask the attorney-general to investigate Hadera's chief engineer for breach of trust on account of his failure to act did the municipality agree to deal with the problem. Ben-Porat wrote that the municipality had violated the rules of proper administration by failing to cooperate with her.

Ben-Porat received several complaints about the rudeness and lack of willingness to help on the part of the office which deals with aiding victims of the Nazis. In one case, for instance, the office refused to help a woman get an operation which its own doctors described as urgent. She therefore had the operation privately, but the office then refused to reimburse her until Ben-Porat ordered it to do so. However, Ben-Porat noted, both the office's director and its head doctor were recently replaced, and the new team appears to be trying to make improvements. In addition, she said, at her prodding, the office finally issued a detailed booklet of what aid the victims are entitled to, which should reduce instances of victims being cheated of their rights because they are not aware of them.

The Yad Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Institute was charging teachers on sabbatical 25% more than other people who took its courses. The institute justified this by saying teachers on sabbatical are reimbursed by advanced-study funds, and can therefore afford to pay more. However, Ben-Porat ruled that there is no justification for charging anyone more than the actual price of the course.

Israel TV reported that a certain Likud central committee member was one of 10 planning to go to Tunis to meet Yasser Arafat. The complainant called the journalist and, in his version, said he never intended anything of the sort. However, the station reported only that the man had changed his mind. Ben-Porat faulted ITV for not having verified the original item with the man himself, but since there was no proof that the man said what he claimed he did in his phone call, rather than what the station reported, she did not require ITV to publish an apology. Evelyn Gordon

# El Al guilty of discriminating against women

KEREN MARKUZE

El Al does not hire female pilots, using as an excuse a long-standing policy requiring all applicants be graduates of the IDF's pilot training school, according to the ombudsman report. The airline was deemed discriminatory after a complaint was lodged by a female applicant who was refused a job as a pilot for El Al because her gender prevented her from filling the criteria. The complaint was an Israeli citizen with 3,600 hours of flying experience as a pilot in the United States. She applied for a job at El Al in response to an advertisement requesting pilots. She was not even granted an interview. El Al's prerequisites for pilots include at least 1,500 hours of experience as well as being a graduate from the IAF flight school. The latter requirement is one which half of the population cannot fulfill, as up until two years ago the school only admitted men. In 1994, the IDF was ordered to open the doors of the flight academy to

women, but their prior exclusion still places them at a disadvantage policy requiring all applicants be graduates of the IDF's pilot training school, according to the ombudsman report. The airline was deemed discriminatory after a complaint was lodged by a female applicant who was refused a job as a pilot for El Al because her gender prevented her from filling the criteria. The complaint was an Israeli citizen with 3,600 hours of flying experience as a pilot in the United States. She applied for a job at El Al in response to an advertisement requesting pilots. She was not even granted an interview. El Al's prerequisites for pilots include at least 1,500 hours of experience as well as being a graduate from the IAF flight school. The latter requirement is one which half of the population cannot fulfill, as up until two years ago the school only admitted men. In 1994, the IDF was ordered to open the doors of the flight academy to

# Nepotism behind Bene Ayish council's decision on transportation service contracts

KEREN MARKUZE

Nepotism, not cost-efficiency, was behind the Bene Ayish municipal council's decision for awarding transportation service contracts, according to the state ombudsman's findings. The ombudsman found that the council preferred to hire the brother of the council's deputy chairman to provide school transportation for children in outlying areas, even though the brother had not even put in a bid for this service. This came to light following a complaint filed by a transportation service contractor who will

be receiving NIS 2,500 as compensation for money spent and time lost in his dealings with the council. His bid was to be the winning one due to its low cost. However, the council contravened the decision of the committee which ruled on the tender and chose to sign a contract with the deputy chairman's brother instead. Because the complainant was not informed of the rejection of his proposal until the last minute, he had already spent money on documents and bank guarantees, and considered himself highly

inconvenienced. The council defended its decision to cancel plans for the service offered by the complainant by stating there simply wasn't enough of a demand for this particular route. During the investigation, the council was found to have violated several rules with regard to the tenders. These included the presence and participation of the vice-president at meetings involving his brother, the failure on the part of the council to respond to letters received from the complainant, and the refusal of the council's president to cooperate with the investigation.

# Court rules in favor of Arad Festival

HELEN KAYE

THE Arad Festival will take place as scheduled after Tel Aviv District Court Judge Efraim Shalev yesterday dismissed on all counts the bereaved parents' petition for an injunction against the festival and its organizers. "We have lost this battle," said Emanuel El-Kariv, "but it will be a long war. We haven't yet decided what we're going to do but we won't be quiet and we won't give up. The festival is nothing but a money-making machine for a great many people and we won't let children be used to feed that greed." El-Kariv is the father of 15-year-old Na'ama who was crushed to death at the Arad Festival last year together with Eitan Peled, 17, and 16-year-old Chen Yitzhak whose brother, Joe, said he was devastated and saddened by the court's decision. Addressing himself solely to the

petition's legal issues, Shalev ruled that there were no legal grounds which allowed the court to defer the festival, to determine that it constitutes a public danger or to prevent Arad Mayor Bezalel Tabib from exercising his function within the Framework of the Arad Festival Association. However tragic, the judge said, the court could not allow past events to sway present action. Moreover, the possibility of future criminal proceedings against Tabib and others named in last year's government report on the disaster could not influence the present. "I regret this decision," said Michael Peled. "I had hoped that the judge would not adhere only to the letter of the law." El-Kariv concurred, adding: "I thought that the judge would act according to

the moral precepts of Jewish law." Arad Festival producer Nahum Langsam said that his decision to undertake the festival was made "despite last year's frightful tragedy." He reiterated that no performance would take place unless and until all the authorizations were in place. The festival is due to open August 6.

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# Clinton officials say US underestimated Saudi terror threat

US military commanders underestimated the terrorist threat in Saudi Arabia and were slow to improve security measures before the fatal June 25 bombing in Dhahran, Defense Secretary William Perry said yesterday.

He told a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing into the bombing that claimed 19 US airmen that officials were misled by intelligence reports and a smaller-scale attack on US troops in a national guard facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last November.

"Why, in the face of serious concern about force protection and extensive measures to improve force protection did the Khobar Towers tragedy occur?" said Perry, referring to the Dhahran apartment complex where thousands of US service members live.

"First of all, the security measures we introduced after the bombing of the Saudi National Guard facility were focused on a

**JOHN DIAMOND**  
WASHINGTON

threat less powerful than actually occurred," he said. "Secondly... our local commanders, for a variety of reasons, had not completed some of the measures that were prescribed and which they agreed needed to be done."

The hearing quickly produced tense exchanges between lawmakers and the senior officials testifying. Sen. John Warner said he was "stunned" by the witnesses' inability to precisely describe the efforts by US officials to gain Saudi permission to extend a protective perimeter around the apartments.

Sen. John McCain pressed Perry on his assurances that the Saudis are fully cooperating when they in fact denied the FBI permission to interrogate four terrorists convicted in the November bombing. When Perry said he had not asked the FBI to press ahead to gain access, McCain said "that

answer speaks for itself."

Two top military commanders accompanying Perry painted a grim picture of the terrorism threat in the Persian Gulf. They said it would not go away and that terrorists would always look for the weak point in the security protecting US forces. All three defended the US mission in the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

"We must face one hard fact: we will have more terrorist incidents," said Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "No one, not even the Israelis who have more experience than any other people in dealing with terrorism, has figured out a way to decisively defeat it."

Gen. Binford Peay III, the four-star Army general who heads the United States Central Command, the headquarters responsible for Saudi Arabia, defended his own actions and those of his subordinates in the months leading up to the June attack.



South African President Nelson Mandela is accompanied by Queen Elizabeth II in a ride to Buckingham Palace yesterday on the first day of his state visit to Britain.

# Skulls jut from ground at excavated Bosnian grave

CERESKA, Bosnia (Reuters) - Human skulls jutted in a ragged row from an embankment excavated yesterday by UN war crimes investigators who have begun exposing mass graves of Muslims executed by Serb forces in eastern Bosnia.

Torsos with skeletal limbs, many of them in rotting clothes, also protruded from the trench, some laying parallel to a nearby dirt road and others at right angles.

The stench of purifying human remains hung in the air at the forest site 35 km northwest of Srebrenica.

Investigators believe sites around the town contain evidence of Europe's worst war atrocity since the Holocaust, committed when Serb forces overran the so-called UN "safe haven" a year ago.

UN war crimes prosecutors say at least 3,000 unarmed Muslim men and possibly as many as 8,000 were machinegunned after capture or mown down in ambush-

es as they dashed for safety to Bosnian government territory.

A 15-member team of pathologists, forensic anthropologists and other experts set up camp on Sunday in the Cerska forest, the first of several suspected mass graves they will exhume in Serb-controlled eastern Bosnia this summer.

Their task is to corroborate testimonies of execution survivors given to the International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

The ICTY has indicted Serb army chief General Ratko Mladic and political leader Radovan Karadzic for genocide and crimes against humanity over an alleged campaign to wipe out Bosnia's Muslim community in the 1992-95 war.

Prosecutors say that campaign reached its bloody climax at Srebrenica, a Bosnian government enclave for much of a war that left the country split into

"ethnically cleansed" Serb and Croat-Muslim entities.

William Haglund, a top American forensic anthropologist heading the ICTY inquiry team, allowed Western journalists to see the Cerska site close-up after two days of digging.

"As you see we've started exposing bodies... along this drop-off from the side of the road. What you have here is an individual lying on its side," Haglund said, pointing at a partially decomposed, clothed corpse.

"Then there is another person [and] underneath down here, a couple of other people. They are just in layers, they fell onto the original surface and then were covered up."

Haglund said about 10 sets of human remains had been unearthed so far but considerably more were likely to be found in further digging due to finish by the end of the week.

# Britain rolls out red carpet for Mandela

LONDON (AP) - Nelson Mandela received a hero's welcome yesterday from thousands of cheering well-wishers and a warmly smiling Queen Elizabeth II.

More than 6,000 people packed Horse Guards parade ground to see the 78-year-old Mandela arrive on the first state visit by a South African president.

Royal gun salutes boomed across the capital from Green Park and the Tower of London, and a wave of excitement moved through the crowd as a royal Rolls-Royce glided onto the parade ground.

Mandela stepped slowly from the limousine to be greeted by the queen, her husband Prince Philip, Prime Minister John Major and cabinet ministers.

The queen, who went to South Africa last year to welcome the nation back into the Commonwealth, said then that she never would forget the warmth of her reception.

That visit signaled the monarchy's official recognition of its former colony's return to the Commonwealth, after South Africa had begun democratic rule.

Mandela said he wished to use his visit to thank the British government, which he said had given massive support to the South

African government.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had opposed the economic sanctions against South Africa's white-minority government, though she had also called for Mandela's release from prison.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Labor Party legislator Donald Anderson asked Major if part of "the historic greatness of President Mandela is that he is prepared to forgive and forget the collusion of the Tory government of the time with apartheid?"

Major ducked that shot at his predecessor, saying only that Mandela "was a very welcome guest of the United Kingdom."

Before departing for Buckingham Palace, where he and his daughter Zuma Mandlani will stay for the four-day visit, Mandela inspected a guard of honor while a military band played the South African national anthem.

The queen and the president then rode away in an open horse-drawn carriage, giving the crowds that lined the wide avenue of The Mall a good view. As the carriage swept towards the palace gates the crowd broke into cheers and applause.

The president had already met a few Britons

in the early morning when, at 5:15, he went for a stroll in Hyde Park. Mandela, shadowed by armed bodyguards, stopped to shake hands with early-morning strollers.

Mandela's schedule includes tea with the 95-year-old Queen Mother Elizabeth at her London residence, a visit to Westminster Abbey to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and a state banquet in his honor at Buckingham Palace.

Mandela is to meet Major, other political leaders and business executives. Britain is South Africa's largest foreign investor and one of its largest trading partners.

The president also will address a joint session of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, receive eight honorary university degrees and visit charity projects in south London.

His visit with Prince Charles to Brixton, a predominantly black district of London, will take place Friday. The area suffers high unemployment and is one of the poorest in London. It was torn by bloody rioting in the 1980s sparked by charges of heavy-handed policing. Police denied the accusations.

Mandela and the prince will visit community projects in Brixton aimed at promoting racial harmony and equal opportunities.

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<b>Monday August 5</b>	<b>REDISCOVERING CAESAREA</b> You may have visited Caesarea before, but now, using new excavation methods, Herod's town has been rediscovered. He'd be happy to see it today. The beautiful new bath house, the hippodrome, Herod's temple, the imperial storage rooms, the baths, and more. NIS 170 (including lunch). Tour guide: YONI SHAPIRO
<b>Tuesday August 6</b>	<b>JERUSALEM OF THE SECOND TEMPLE</b> During the Roman era Jerusalem was considered one of the great cities of the world. Wealthy Roman occupiers lived alongside Jewish tradition in the shadow of Herod's temple. We'll tour reconstructed ancient sites and feel what it was like to live in Jerusalem in the first century C.E. Lunch at the Culinarium, the Roman restaurant in the Cardo. NIS 180 (including lunch). Tour guide: NAOMI MILLER
<b>Tuesday August 20</b>	<b>IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN</b> The Bar Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves and the study of the Torah came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee and the towns of Usha, Zippori, Shefaram and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim. Lunch at Hoshaya. NIS 170 (including lunch). Tour guide: MOTTI AVIAM

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand. 10% discount when you book all four tours.

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# Lamm declares for president under Perot's party banner

DENVER (AP) - Former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm announced yesterday that he would seek the presidential nomination of Ross Perot's fledgling Reform Party.

The 60-year-old Lamm, a registered Democrat, said he would campaign on a platform of restoring fiscal sanity to the federal budget by dramatically controlling government spending on social programs, including popular entitlement programs like Medicare and Social Security.

"America has to ask itself not what it wants, but what it can afford," Lamm said in launching a scathing attack on both major political parties. He accused the established parties of calculated, cowardly decisions to avoid tackling the nation's major problems.

Lamm is realistic about his chances: Little name recognition, little money - he's raised just \$6,000 so far - and a late start are considerable hurdles for any independent party campaign, which, historically, is given little chance of success.

Lamm said the Democratic and Republican parties were "petrified into inaction" because they were afraid to alienate powerful voting

blocs or deep-pocketed special interest groups.

"This will be politically traumatic," he said of his own effort.

As Lamm became the first official candidate for the Reform Party nomination, the giant question was whether Perot himself would seek to carry the banner of the party he has spent millions to build over the past year.

Perot has said he will run if nominated by Reform Party members, but it is unclear if he will actively seek the nomination.

Perot and Lamm were the only potential candidates named in a Reform survey mailed this week to about one million party supporters in order to determine which candidates will appear on the nominating ballot at an August 11 party convention. Respondents may also write in the names of other potential candidates.

America, Lamm said, "just doesn't need a new president. It needs a whole decade of reform and renewal."

Lamm said Perot had created "a movement that is bigger than himself," and said he wanted to take it a step farther and make it a powerful alternative to the existing two-party system.

# Polish Church attacks Auschwitz demand by Wiesel

WARSAW (Reuters) - Poland's Roman Catholic Church criticized Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel yesterday for demanding the removal of Christian crosses from the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The controversy struck a jarring note amid Poland's campaign to end years of disputes with Jewish organizations over various issues including how to conserve Auschwitz.

At a ceremony on Sunday in the southern town of Kielce, where a mob murdered 42 Jews in 1946, Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz and the town's mayor apologized for the killings

and other wrongs done by Poles to Jews, pleading for reconciliation.

A bishop representing the church condemned antisemitism.

In his reply, Wiesel praised Poland's gesture but demanded at length that Cimoszewicz ensure the removal of several wooden crosses planted at Birkenau by Polish youths 12 years ago.

In a statement published in Polish newspapers yesterday, the Polish Episcopate's committee for dialogue with Judaism argued that the cross had been a symbol of faith and national resistance to atheistic Nazi German and communist domination.

"Therefore an act against the cross, albeit unwitting and in good faith, places the promoter of such an act on the side of those who were both against the Jews and also against Christians," the church's statement said.

Wiesel said crosses on ground where the ashes of Jews killed in Birkenau's gas-chambers were buried were blasphemous and all religious symbols should be removed.

The international council overseeing the museum at Auschwitz-Birkenau was meeting yesterday and one member told Reuters it was divided over whether or when to remove the symbols.

# Obese man returns home much lighter

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A man so fat he had to be removed by forklift from his house two months ago returned yesterday and managed to walk triumphantly up his steps.

Michael Hebranko, 43, has lost roughly 300 pounds (136 kg) since May, dropping to about 600 pounds (272 kg) from more than 900 pounds (408 kg), said a spokesman for the ambulance company that transported him.

# British teenagers have sex sooner

LONDON (Reuters) - Teenagers in Britain are sexually active at an earlier age than their contemporaries elsewhere in Europe, according to a survey released yesterday.

In Britain, 14 percent said they first had sex when they were 14 years old - with four percent under 13 - and 35 percent said they had lost their virginity before they were 16, the survey of more than 10,000 young adults in 15 countries found.

Only 12 percent of Italians admitted having had under-age sex, while 20 percent of Spanish and 23 percent of French under-30s said they had had sex before they reached 16.

The survey, conducted by the condom manufacturing company Durex, showed that teenagers in the United States grow up fastest - 49 percent said they had first had sex before their 16th birthday, and of these 11 percent were younger than 13.

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# Bahrain jails three activists

A special court this week sentenced three Bahraini opposition activists to six years in prison for torching cars and "endangering lives."

Pro-government newspapers, in brief and nearly identical reports, said the three - Abbas Ahmed Fahd, Salman Mirza Mohammed and Ali Ibrahim al-Shofah - were sentenced this week by the State Security Court.

Bahrain's government set up the court in March to handle cases arising from a wave of unrest by Shi'ite Muslims ostensibly demanding parliamentary representation, more freedom and jobs.

The court, whose judgment cannot be appealed, last week ordered the execution of three Bahrainis for an arson attack in March in which seven Bangladeshis died. It also jailed four for life and another man for 15 years for taking part in the attack.

Bahrain has suffered the current Shi'ite insurgency for 19 months and at least 25 people have died. Baffled and unable to eradicate the source of terrorism, the authorities have arrested over 2,000 political prisoners, according to lawyers defending some of the imprisoned. The Bahraini government believes that Iran is behind the unrest, a charge Iran strenuously denies.

In early June, Bahraini authorities openly accused Iran of financing a plot by an armed group - Hizbullah Bahrain - and later successfully produced six confes-

sions out of 50-plus detainees to support the claim.

On June 12 came an announcement that the mastermind, a Sanabis shopkeeper, had been placed in custody. The arms he allegedly smuggled came from Saudi Arabia, according to Bahraini media, but this did not preclude them originating in Iran.

The revolt has been characterized by hotel and shopping-mall bombings.

The mainly Sunni authorities, led by Sheikh Isa al-Khalifa, shut the embryonic parliament in 1975. Although Sheikh Isa installed a consultative council, one of the demands of the Shi'ite extremists includes the restoration of a representative parliament.

Within the last year and half, damage to electricity substations totaled \$9 million. Several foreigners were killed when restaurants and hotels were set ablaze.

Bahrain is supported by the British and US governments. The US maintains its Fifth Fleet's regional headquarters near the capital Manama where some 40 percent of the population live. Bahrain's importance as a small oil-producer is waning, but it continues to be a commercial center because of its strategic location.

Accusations of human rights violations and demands for liberal reforms, as well as the insurgency and the island's strategic importance, have soured the formerly benign atmosphere of Bahrain's gleaming capital. (Agencies)



# Women's university a rare oasis in Sudan

THE only women's college in the Arab world has shielded itself from the wrenching changes at Sudan's state-run colleges by following a simple maxim: No politics.

"There are no political meetings here," said Lucy Joseph, a third-year student at the independent Al-Ahfad University. "No one talks about politics, and that keeps us away from problems."

So while the Islamic government in Khartoum across the Nile reins in the big universities, Al-Ahfad goes its own way.

Its curriculum has a decidedly activist bent, and many of the students say that after graduation they plan to return to their villages, help rural women or work with development and aid groups.

The college still teaches in English - despite the government's efforts to institute Arabic as the medium of instruction. Unlike at other colleges, women are under no pressure to wear the veil.

Gassim Badri, the university's

president, said Al-Ahfad wants to train women as "agents of change" in a country where nearly nine of every 10 women are illiterate and women on average live to only age 53.

A course in rural development is compulsory, and all 4,000 students must spend time in a village during their third year, he said.

"We want a practical aspect to our education rather than the traditional university, ivory-tower education," Badri said.

In a courtyard shaded by date palms and eucalyptus trees, women extol the independence at Al-Ahfad. Often hailing from traditional homes in a Sudan that is increasingly conservative and religious, the students seem to relish their freedom.

"The girls who graduate from here know how to survive on their own," said Mayada Abdulahi, a first-year student in medicine. "We don't feel there is any difference between us and the men who graduate from another university." (AP)

# King of Morocco loses libel suit

KING Hassan II of Morocco has lost a defamation lawsuit against the Paris daily newspaper *Le Monde* for an article implicating his government in drug trafficking.

A Paris tribunal ruled at the weekend that though the article was "evidently offensive" to the Moroccan monarch, *Le Monde* had not gone out of its way to discredit the king.

Hassan sued after the newspaper published its story last November 3, describing a 1994 report by the Geopolitical Drug Observatory on hashish trafficking in the North African nation.

In its report, the international think tank denounced what it called increasing complicity of Moroccan authorities reaching into "the main circle of power."

The observatory also noted that

in 1992, Hassan launched an all-out fight against drug trafficking, but said his crusade "seems to limit itself ... to maintaining the image of the country."

In his lawsuit, an enraged Hassan singled out *Le Monde* publisher Jean-Marie Colombani and journalist Erich Ickizyan.

The king complained that the newspaper never mentioned a "white paper" issued by the government of Morocco - a former French colony - to rebut the Geopolitical Drug Observatory's findings.

But the court ruled for *Le Monde*, saying the newspaper's story included excerpts of the report "without distortion or abusive interpretation."

Morocco has been widely criticized for serving as a major pipeline supplying Europe with hashish and other drugs. (AP)

# Jordan sets up top privatization body

JORDAN has decided to form a senior body to speed up its slow-moving IMF-directed privatization effort, officials said this week.

A ministerial committee chaired by Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti will formulate policy such as privatization priorities and a timetable for sales, a senior economic official said.

Jordan embarked this year in conjunction with the IMF on a three-year reform program that offers a \$295 million extended fund facility in return for steps to further liberalize its economy.

The committee, the first institutional framework for privatization, will oversee an executive unit to be formed in coming months that would be linked to the Prime Minister's Office and implement a speeded-up program of selling state assets.

The reform program follows monetary stabilization under IMF guidance since a Jordanian economic crisis in 1989 wiped out its reserves.

It includes long-delayed privatization of state utilities, accelerated moves to update laws, development of the domestic capital market and reform of the stock market by setting up a regulatory Securities and Exchange Commission.

Jordan will submit a timetable for privatization to the IMF, needed to boost confidence among investors critical of Jordan's pace.

The government has taken tentative steps toward allowing private investment in state-dominated services, including telecommunications and power generation. But, despite pledges, it has not sold profitable state concerns or large stakes in firms listed in the stock market.

The ministerial committee will examine options to speed privatization of state enterprises by offering stakes to strategic partners or on the stock market. (Reuters)

# Saudi Arabia faces jobs challenge

SAUDI Arabia is facing the tough challenge of how to find more jobs for its citizens and maintain a generous welfare system at a time of state belt-tightening, according to officials, businessmen and economists.

They say these issues are more crucial than ever to underpin social stability as the population grows and the nation recovers from the shock of two bombings in less than a year.

The attacks, which killed 24 Americans and two Indians, raised fears of home-grown dissent in the kingdom, a key Western ally and the world's largest oil producer and exporter. Although the attacks targeted Americans, some analysts and Saudi officials see a link with economic pressures, lingering discontent and frustrations fueled by perceptions that many Saudi princes are immune to hardships faced by others.

Excessive spending by some members of the royal family is now exposed by the economic decline, whereas in the oil-boom years it was not so obvious, said a Saudi businessman.

"These people want a job. They see all this money and ask, 'Where is it going?'" said another Saudi businessman. "You should see the poverty in the villages, and the unemployment."

"The real challenges are economic," a senior Saudi government official said. "Most of the extremists we see in our country now come from poor families."

"Lack of education or poverty. This is what causes security problems. We need now to deal with the causes, not the result," another Saudi official said.

Unemployment, which some economists estimate as high as 20 percent, is climbing and 60 percent of the population is under the age of 20.

About six million expatriates work in Saudi Arabia, which has a population of about 18 million. Fewer than 7% of the private-sector employees are Saudi, economists and bankers say.

SUPPORTED BY its oil wealth, the Saudi government had for decades provided its citizens with a generous welfare system that paid for most of their basic needs. Now it says it is trying to address the unemployment problem in its 1995-2000 development plan.

The plan says 659,900 new Saudi job entrants must be absorbed, with about 80% having secondary-school education or less. It foresees 340,000 new jobs in the period, 30 percent of them in professional or technical

fields. Saudi citizens had for decades favored well-paid, half-day managerial jobs in the state sector, but a state spending squeeze due to low oil prices in the early 1990s has changed that, and the government can no longer create more public-sector jobs to accommodate Saudis.

In 1995, Riyadh slashed some subsidies, hiked utility prices and told citizens to get ready for a period of adjustment as it tried to deal with a cash crunch.

"The real challenge with lower government revenues is how can you continue to keep the people happy," said a Riyadh-based economist who works for the government.

"The population is growing faster than the economy," said a US Embassy report on 1996 trends.

The kingdom, in a sign of its determination to employ its citizens, is using a "big stick" method with the private sector by withholding loans from companies of 20 people or more which do not increase Saudi labor by at least 5%.

But Saudis "don't have the job skills to get the salaries they demand," said the economist. "Menial jobs for Saudis are as incongruous as [US presidential candidate] Bob Dole in denim." (Reuters)

said. Egypt, locked in a low-level guerrilla war with subversive Muslim militants seeking to oust Mubarak and install a purist Islamic state, has often accused Iran of trying to export its Islam revolution of 1979 to other countries in the region.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, who has paid two visits to Teheran in the past week, said after meeting Mubarak last week that Syria, Iran's closest Arab ally, wants to improve ties between Iran and Arab states, particularly Egypt.

But Osama el-Baz, Mubarak's top political adviser, denied Damascus was working to improve relations with Iran, saying relations could not improve until Teheran stopped "supporting terrorists."

Gulf Arab countries have accused Teheran of interfering in their internal affairs and of mass terminating plots against them. Iran denied the charges. Iran is condemned by the US as a sponsor of terrorism. (News agencies)

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# Short & sweet

JONATHAN S. TOBIN



## ongress

— the US of the danger Iran poses to Middle East peace and stability. The Clinton administration knows very well that Iran constitutes a threat to the entire world order. Nor does America need Israel to goad it into understanding that terrorism doesn't threaten our region solely.

The threat of terror serves terrorists' interests more than does terrorism itself. This being the case Israel must resist the urge to present the American public with the threats being made against it.

Only in rare cases does this kind of action ensure any real support (beyond the kinds of declarations made at the Sharm e-Sheikh anti-terror summit). Mostly it just boomerangs back, wringing concessions out of Israel.

There could even be attempted acts of terror while Netanyahu is in the US; the terrorists may try to demonstrate their seriousness.

However, the suspension of the gas-mask distribution to Israelis that constituted part of our budget cuts sends out a signal — that Israel isn't frightened by the massing of nonconventional weapons by Teheran and its allies, and that it will not yield to threats that it abandon its strategic assets, or else.

Paradoxically, there has been quiet in Hebron for the last month, because the Palestinians haven't wanted to ruin the chances of IDF redeployment.

Once this redeployment is carried out, however, and Palestinians realize that all their expectations haven't been met, the danger of renewed terrorism will increase — a terrorism whose purpose is additional Israeli concessions.

This is what will happen if the Palestinians become convinced that Israel understands one language only: that of the intifada.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

—

n't ab to be

of Ireland has long left the realms of Celtic romanticism which both sides in the conflict drape over it. Northern Ireland, with its abundant arms, cultural fundamentalism, and intransigent attitudes, has the potential to edge into the same dangerous and squalid swamp as Bosnia.

The new return to conflict was over a banned traditional march in Portadown by pro-British loyalists. Police, fearing the march would be seen as a provocation which would lead to confrontation, prevented the Protestant Orange order from marching through a nationalist area. The police action has sparked the very unrest it tried to prevent and, rather than being localized, it spread quickly across the province. The Unionist side has now decided to stay away from the piddling all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland, angrily declaring that the ban on their march is just the latest concession to the Nationalist camp. And worse, a Catholic taxi-driver was murdered, raising fears of a return to tit-for-tat sectarian killings.

As with most things Irish and political, the arguments and lists of grievances and accusations begin somewhere in 1169 (when an English king first invaded Ireland) and ramble inconclusively through modern television debates. Yet there is a clear recent accusation

of status as a precondition for talks, first rejecting and then accepting outside mediation by the Americans, dropping its insistence on decommissioning when criticized by the American-chaired Mitchell Report, only to sidestep that by demanding premature Northern Ireland elections. The IRA, feeling it had been double-crossed, called off its cease-fire, thus nullifying the respectable mandate Sinn Fein won at the polls and excluding it from the now-ineffectual all-party talks.

All this century, Britain has stumbled from incompetence to deviousness in its Irish policy. By locking itself in immutable principle of no constitutional change without the majority approval of the northern Unionists, London has become trapped in its own illogic and blocked any chance of the Irish moving towards some agreement on guaranteed rights for all.

It is easy for Britain to condemn the IRA and other men of violence — after all, no one is for terrorism. It is easy for it to call for restraint, it is easy for it to criticize Dublin for "not doing enough" of something or other.

What seems impossible for Britain to do is to devise a coherent policy for the province it took direct control of 25 years ago, as it lurches again from one unnecessary crisis to the next.

talking about competing with the British standard of living, but about a plan to reduce Israel's inflation to an annual 3-4 percent by the year 2000.

And to achieve this goal American economic aid is necessary.

Of course Israel doesn't want to burden the American taxpayer. But the reality is that generous American aid helps build Middle East stability. It symbolizes the US's strong interest in Israel's well-being — something that is of the utmost importance in a period of negotiations toward an Israeli-

THE TRUTH is that no settlement with the Palestinians can prevent Iran's mad self-armorment. And if Israel shows signs of nervousness over threats of a new intifada (failing a redeployment from Hebron) the threat will only reappear with respect to Jerusalem.

If terrorist organizations get the impression that all Israel's moves toward a settlement with the Palestinians are made out of a fear of intifada breaking out, there will be no limit to their attempts to terrorize and murder.

Israel doesn't need to convince

**A good nickname is a great asset. The PM should bless the day they called him Bibi**

the throne zoomed to vast popularity as "Di."

BUT HAS there ever been as good a nickname as "Bibi"? It is short, colorful, politically neutral and a writer's delight.

And its two-syllable length allows Netanyahu's most ardent supporters to serenade him with the "Bibi, King of Israel" song, into which the name "Netanyahu" would definitely not fit.

"Bibi" also helped this product of Israel's most elite military unit and one of America's elite universities to persuade Israelis in the street that he was one of them.

The prime minister may believe that being called Bibi is a mark of disrespect — as if making everyone call him "Mr. Netanyahu" can alone boost the government's prestige.

And given the left-wing bias of much of the press in both Israel and the US, which viewed Netanyahu's election as an unmitigated disaster, one can understand why the prime minister may be just a touch on the defensive.

Yet Netanyahu has based his career on being media-savvy. He'd do better to forget all about the press's bias and, instead, start enjoying the sense of accessibility "Bibi" imparts.

Netanyahu's success in office will depend on his strength of character, intellect and political skills.

Personally, I happen to think he'll do just fine leading Israel whether he's called Bibi, BN, his excellency, the prime minister, or late for dinner. And his sticking to formality won't do much to convince his critics that he's on the right track.

Netanyahu and his staff should lighten up, forget about formality and make good use of a beautiful moniker.

After all, it isn't every Israeli political leader who can get the American press to sing, "Yessir, he's their Bibi!"

The writer is executive editor of the Connecticut Jewish Ledger.

## Treating people as equals

ESTHER HERTZOG

THE new head of labor and social affairs, Eli Yishai, can pick up where his predecessors left off, ministering to people in need via myriads of over-busy social workers and an ever-increasing number of institutions. Or he can take equality rather than pity as his guiding concept.

This was what motivated Yisrael Katz, a previous incumbent in the 1970s, in his reform of the social services.

Rather than categorizing disadvantaged people as "needy," "weak" or "having a social problem requiring special attention" — a bureaucratic approach fostering discrimination and actually perpetuating the existence of social sub-groups — Katz reduced the patronizing element of social welfare by calling for the direct transfer of resources to the citizens who need them.

He understood that perpetuating dependency on the establishment did nothing to help these people (though it was highly necessary to the social workers who lived off the unfortunate situation of their clients).

Under Katz, National Insurance became firmly based on the concept of dispensing services by right, not grace — a concept that has sadly been undermined in the last few years.

What kind of ministry is this in 1996? We're looking at an empire of social workers who are frequently over-involved in people's lives, in divorcing parents' claims to children, in removing children from "unsuitable" homes by putting them up for adoption or sending them to boarding schools.

Why limit talk about cutbacks to the number of employees? Why not cut back on the authority wielded by the whole welfare apparatus?

A DOSE of privatization would do very well here. It would enable disadvantaged people to approach professional experts and advisers of their own choice, paying them out of funds they receive directly from the public purse. This would go

far in freeing them from their unhealthy dependency on welfare bureaucracy.

Similarly, in light of the failure of most boarding schools (reported in several studies) it might be worth rethinking the claim that battered children are "saved" by being put up for adoption or transferred to boarding schools. All this does is help deepen the stigma that becomes attached to these children.

Abused children should not in fact be sent away to an institution; it is the abusing parent who should be removed from the home, imprisoned and punished.

Generous amounts of money should be budgeted to creating community frameworks directly aiding needy families. Children and their working mothers could gain tremendously if the Social Affairs and Education ministries got together to provide a long school day and a school calen-

**Will the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry foster genuine well-being or will it will go on dispensing 'welfare'?**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### RETHINK LEBANON

Sir, — In "US should rethink Lebanon strategy" (J.P., June 26) David Makovsky called for a US-inspired move, backed by an international coalition aimed at getting Israel and Syria to come to terms for an IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He also stressed that "should Damascus reject these terms, this would unmask before the world the little known secret that Syria prefers the IDF to remain in southern Lebanon" since this ensures "that Israel bleeds and therefore [is] its most important lever to yield militarily powerful Israel to the Golan Heights."

I agree with the startling statement that Syria wants the IDF to remain in southern Lebanon, but I differ over Syria's motive. I think that the actual reason for the surprising Syrian position is that the IDF presence in southern Lebanon provides Syria with the sole legitimacy for its own presence in Lebanon, in blatant contradiction of the sponsored Arab League Taif Accords, as well as UN Security Council resolution 520.

This "little known secret" was not disclosed till now by Israel, probably because our policy makers considered Syria's vested interests in Lebanon as a possible and useful bargaining card for getting a better quid pro quo on the Golan.

Since this view had apparently been a miscalculation, it is perhaps

also due time for Israel to rethink its Lebanon strategy. Of course, on the one hand Israel will have to give up what till now was rather a delusive bargaining card, but on the other hand it could benefit substantially by cutting the Gordian knot of the spiral of terror in southern Lebanon.

DR. YOHANAN MANOR, Chairman, Europe Israel Foundation, Jerusalem.

**READING HEBREW**

Sir, — It seems to me that Prof. Alberg ("Hebrew is not exactly a language for speed readers," J.P., June 19) underestimates the intelligence of the reader, Hebrew or otherwise.

Not all rapid reading is necessarily effective reading, and it is not proven that "you may have forgotten the beginning" by the time you slowly read a section of text.

What about German sentences? Does one forget the beginning by the time they end? Is German reading ineffective?

And are "most native Hebrew readers" really not proficient in another language? Is that why they do "not complain" or is it because they happen to know their language well enough to be able to read and understand it?

JUDY NATHAN, Tel Aviv.

### COMPARING VIEWS

Sir, — May I congratulate whoever had the good sense to put the articles by Rabbi Hammer and Rabbi Feldman on conversion side by side (J.P., June 30). This made it so much easier to compare the two.

With all due respect, Rabbi Feldman's authoritarianism reminded me so much of the dog-in-the-manger syndrome. If I can't do it, then no one will! Rabbi Hammer's plea for respect and recognition of the rights of potential converts seems so humanitarian, so right, that there can be no argument against it.

So what if someone wants to convert in order to marry a Jew or Jewess whom he loves? Is that so terrible? He'll be Jewish even if only in name, and, more importantly, his children will be Jewish! Surely that cannot be so bad.

LEONARD ZURAKOV, Netanya.

**SHARON**

Sir, — Ariel Sharon welded together Herut, the Liberals, the Free Center and the State List into the Likud in September 1973. The concessions he extracted from all of them led one of his colleagues to declare "He raped four parties."

Given the long list of powers he requests be added to the new National Infrastructure Ministry, is Sharon now seeking to rape as many ministries?

A. ROSEMARINE, Jerusalem.

Passive million

British...  
...to



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom right of the page.

# Massive trapped lake may yield million-year-old life forms

**B**RITISH researchers in Antarctica have mapped what may be the most unusual lake in the world—a body of unfrozen fresh water the size of Lake Ontario buried three kilometers beneath the ice of the coldest spot on Earth.

Researchers suspect the unsullied lake water may harbor an ancient trove of living bacteria, viruses and simple plants essentially unchanged for a million years. But they are unsure how to tap into the lake without contaminating its pristine waters or unleashing pent-up water pressure powerful enough to demolish a surface drilling station.

Located under a shield of ice so thick it crushes a continent under its weight, the lake is over 180 kilometers long, averages over 100 meters deep and is half as large again as scientists initially suspected, according to new research. The lake lies directly below Russia's Vostok research base in East Antarctica.

"The biologists are very interested because it might be that some very early life forms exist in the water," said Vladimir Lipenkov of the Russian Arctic and Antarctic State Research Center in St. Petersburg, who led this year's Russian research expedition to the Vostok station.

"People," he said, "are dream-

ing of this water."

The discovery of the buried lake beneath Vostok is all the more surprising because, at the surface, the plains of perpetual ice are so arid, due to the cold, that people can die of thirst almost as easily as they can freeze to death in what are officially the lowest natural temperatures to be recorded on the planet—128.6 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

Scientists have suspected the existence of the lake for almost 20 years, based on cursory airborne radar studies of the surface conducted in the mid 1970s. Not until 1993 was there enough satellite data for researchers at the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge University in England and the Russian Academy of Sciences to begin calculating its vast boundaries and chemical composition.

By coupling the satellite data with additional seismic studies and radio-echo sounding surveys, researchers have been able to calculate that the lake—named Lake Vostok—is the largest of what appear to be 70 lakes buried under East Antarctica and the biggest sub-glacial lake in the world "by an order of magnitude," the scientists said in research published last month in *Nature*. The lake encompasses 14,000 square kilometers and contains over 1,000

cubic kilometers of unfrozen water. In some places, the water is more than 400 meters deep, the researchers said. Its temperature appears to be about zero degrees and it may be kept fluid by a combination of pressure and geothermal warming.

The water itself may, on the average, be about 50,000 years old. But its life forms may be as much as a million years old and its lake-bed sediments may be several million years older than that.

The researchers said the lake is "an exceptional environment that should provide useful information to the biological community and to geologists."

Some experts suggested the possibility of discovering valuable medical antibiotics or industrial enzymes in the genes of bacteria that have survived in the lake, isolated from both regional and global changes. Several US officials, however, questioned whether the technology even exists to safely tap water buried so deeply under the ice. For the foreseeable future, the biggest beneficiary of any project focused on Lake Vostok, they said, would be the faltering Russian Antarctic program.

The Russian program there is the most ambitious drilling program ever undertaken on the

southernmost continent. An international team of scientists has been drilling deep ice cores there for the past decade to study climate change.

So far, the evidence of the Vostok core has been key in the debate over global warming. Indeed, it was ancient ice from Vostok that first established a conclusive link between amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and changes in earth's ancient climate.

By January, when drilling operations there were suspended due to lack of funding, the researchers had drilled to within several hundred meters of the lake's upper edge. But before undertaking any investigation of the lake itself, researchers are debating how best to proceed without contaminating the lake or destroying the bore hole.

"Unless they have another high-profile project to fill its place, it is likely our support for Vostok and the Russian program would certainly go down," she said.

(LA TIMES)



Lord Allenby (l) pays a visit to Megiddo with archeologists Israel Finkelstein (c) and David Ussishkin

## An Allenby returns to Megiddo

**O**N the great mound of Megiddo, where archeologists are still trying to identify remains of the past, Michael Allenby's great-uncle found his own identity 78 years ago and passed it on to him.

Allenby—great-nephew of Field Marshal Edmund Allenby, whose forces drove the Turks out of Palestine in the First World War—this month visited the site from which his hereditary title is derived, Viscount Allenby of Felixstowe and Megiddo.

The English port of Felixstowe is where the family home is located. Megiddo is the site of a battle-field victory by which Field Marshal Allenby chose to be remembered. He might have chosen Jerusalem, which he had captured before Megiddo, but that would have been too exalted a title, he felt, for a soldier to claim. Instead he settled for Megiddo, where his army had made the final breakthrough that drove the Turks from Palestine.

No less important to Allenby

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

came up the middle. I don't if he knew that Thutmose done that."

Michael Allenby, 65, him, was a professional soldier. A graduate of the military academy Sandhurst, he served as a cavalryman—armed cars and tanks, the post-equine army—and a career took him to Malta, Cyprus, Nigeria and Hong Kong. A reserve yeomanry regiment which he commanded had fought with his great-uncle in Palestine. For the past eight years he has been a member of the House of Lords where he is a deputy speaker.

Lord Allenby is president of the Anglo-Israel Exploration Society which supports archeological research in Israel. He visited the site with his wife Sara as guest of Tel Aviv University, which is sponsoring the current excavations being carried out there by Prof. Israel Finkelstein and David Ussishkin. The visit coincided with the beginning of the team's second season of digs at Megiddo.

## Journalists 'buy' Sudan boy slaves

**T**WO reporters for *The Baltimore Sun* said they paid \$1,000 for two brothers who were abducted from their home in southern Sudan and forced to work in the fields as slaves for six years.

Garang Deng Kuot, 10, and Akok Deng Kuot, 12, were returned to their father, Deng Kuot Mayen, by the reporters who ventured into the war-torn region of the African nation to expose child slavery, the newspaper reported.

"I call on Almighty God to love all my children and let them remain happy," the boys' father, a poor farmer, said joyfully.

The brothers, seized during a 1990 raid by a government-backed Arab militia, told the reporters horrible stories of their ordeal.

"I was given to a very bad man," Garang said. "He always made me do difficult things like carrying away hot ashes. Sometimes he would curse me. Sometimes I was beaten. No person in the family was kind or good."

He said he and his brother were fed table scraps. "Whatever was left, that is what I ate," Garang said. "If nothing was left, I just sat there."

Akok, who was six when he was kidnapped, said all he could remember of his abduction was being lifted and tied across the back of a horse.

He said he was forced to keep a fence in the cattle camp clean and clear away manure.

The newspaper reporters entered southern Sudan illegally with the help of Christian Solidarity International, a Zurich-based humanitarian group. The group is one of the few international aid organiza-

tions willing to defy the Sudanese government ban on flights into contested areas.

The two children were purchased for a set fee of \$500 American each—the cash equivalent of five cows in Sudan—from an Arab trader in Manyiel, a remote village in the southern Sudanese province of Bahr el Ghazal. The trader is in the business of obtaining the freedom of slaves, the paper said.

The southern rebels, mostly Christians and members of African tribal sects, have been fighting since 1983 for more autonomy from the Moslem Arab north.

More than 1.3 million people have died in the fighting and resultant famines.

Last November, the United Nations reported "an alarming increase... in cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade and forced labor" in Africa's largest country and accused the government of not investigating the human rights abuses.

The government has said it does not sanction slavery. Mahdi Ibrahim Mohamed, the Sudanese ambassador in Washington, said any abductions arose from tribal disputes in the country, which has 19 major ethnic groups and 115 distinct languages.

"Slavery is not a practice of the government of Sudan," he said. "It is contrary to the value of the people of Sudan and the declared policy of Sudan."

American black leader Louis Farrakhan, of the Nation of Islam, was criticized earlier this year for visiting Sudan despite the reports of slave trading.

He challenged reporters to find proof of slavery inside Sudan.

(AP)

## Alternatives to the bath-book-bedtime routine

PARENTING  
RUTH MASON

**G**ETTING children to sleep seems to be one of the major challenges of parenthood, especially during the early years.

Experts agree that a predictable, comforting bedtime routine can ease what for many children is a difficult transition.

Here are some routines beyond bath-book-bed that some moms and dads—and kids—especially like.

"After my two-and-a-half-year-old has kissed everyone good night, I hold him by his crib and sing the old Beatles hit, 'Till There Was You.' Whenever I try to introduce a new song, he insists on that one," says Shira Rosenfeld.

Shira adds that she sometimes "forgets" to turn on her son's night light and he gets the pleasure of reminding her. He loves catching her in a mistake, and she sends him off to sleep with a laugh.

Lita Pollard says "I sit on the edge of the bed with Alec, who is six, and help him send good wishes to every family member by saying, 'God bless Daddy, God bless Tzvi, God bless Aunt Carole,' and so on."

Then I say, 'May you have a very, very good night's sleep and be refreshed for...' and then I fill in whatever is coming up the next day."

Shira Bronznick comments "I always end one-year-old Emma's day by holding her near the window and saying good night to the trees, the sky, the houses, and the neighborhood,

and then closing the blinds." Beth Falk outlines her method. "I read from a book of relaxation exercises to help my five-year-old fall asleep. They are short, magical stories, in which I ask her to close her eyes and imagine dream-like images."

And my four-year-old and I have developed a routine together in which, after I read to him, we close our eyes and chant the *Shema* together.

Afterwards, I sing the *Ve'ahava*, which he is trying to learn. I then skip down to two of my favorite prayers from the nighttime *Shema* from when I was a child: "Hinei lo yanum v'lo yishan shomer Yisrael" ("The guardian of Israel never rests and never sleeps") and another that I've always found very comforting, especially when I had to be alone, as are most children when they drift off to sleep.

It allows you to send your child off to dreamland surrounded, in his mind, by angels. "In the name of the God of Israel: On my right is Michael, on my left is Gabriel, in front of me is Uriel, behind me is Raphael and above my head is the dwelling place of God."

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

## Budget cuts are only first step, says Meridor

EVELYN GORDON

THE planned 1997 budget cuts are only the first step in a broader program of economic reform, Finance Minister Dan Meridor told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday.

"After this will come structural changes... in order to create a better economy... with a freer market," he said.

Meridor, who was explaining the budget reductions to the committee, stressed that they were not really cuts since 1997's budget will still be bigger than that of 1996. However, the increase will be much smaller than what was originally planned.

Meridor said the cuts were needed because Israel currently maintains a level of spending for health, education and welfare which is at Western European levels as a percentage of GNP, but of necessity couples this with defense spending which is much higher than European levels. The result is an overburden on the budget.

The previous government, for example, increased education spending 70% in real terms, he said. "The question is whether we continue in this fashion," he said.

Other than cuts, there are three ways to deal with the problem - letting the deficit grow, raising taxes or taking out loans - but all would be irresponsible, he said. He noted that the 1996 budget deficit is already expected to hit NIS 11 billion, or NIS 3b. more than originally planned.

"We decided not to raise taxes not because we have pity on the rich, but because we know that this impedes growth," he added.

Opposition and coalition MKs

alike raised numerous objections to the plan during the meeting, with the cuts in child allowances, the reduction of investment grants, the cancellation of the Demobilized Soldiers Law and the postponement of the long school day among the most frequently mentioned items. However, most coalition MKs made it clear that though they would attempt to make changes, ultimately they would support the plan.

"If anyone thinks the coalition won't pass the government's proposal - it will pass it," said coalition whip Silvan Shalom (Likud). "In the end, the coalition will stand behind the government, both in the committee and in the plenum."

"Don't kid yourselves. The coalition will support the Treasury's policy," added Avraham Hirschson (Likud).

In response to the MKs' suggestions, Meridor expressed willingness to make certain changes, though he did not specify what.

"I don't expect the Knesset to be a rubber stamp," he said. "It would be very strange if it was, even if I would be happy [to have it so]."

"Some [of your suggestions] don't seem reasonable to me, others do, and still others need to be looked into," he said. "But we will talk with each other, and we will try to pass our proposals with as much of a consensus as possible."

One idea which he completely rejected, however, was reducing the government's participation in employers' national insurance payments.

"This is not the time to hurt companies whose profit margin is very small," he said.

## Livnat: Cable companies to break Bezeq monopoly

JUDY SIEGEL

CABLE companies will likely provide telephone infrastructure in the future, thereby breaking Bezeq's monopoly, said Communications Minister Limor Livnat yesterday.

In her first meeting with the press since assuming the new post, Livnat said she arrived at the ministry "by choice" with a *tabula rasa*, although admitting that she favors the privatization and liberalization of the telecommunications sector.

Livnat said that while telecom policies related to existing international agreements should be observed, others, including Bezeq's general license, could be amended.

The minister said she would re-examine a number of Bezeq-sensitive issues including smart card restrictions and Internet access provision. While complementing Bezeq Director-General Yitzhak

Kaul, Livnat said she will evaluate each issue after hearing all sides and consulting with experts.

Issues that need to be dealt with soon include new Bezeq-share offerings, efforts by Britain's Cable & Wireless to expand its stake in Bezeq, and the issuing of a public tender for a third supplier of cellular phone service.

Motorola and Cellcom, the country's two cellular phone providers, oppose the tender, however, Livnat said that at this time she was inclined to go ahead with it.

Ministry Director-General Shlomo Waxe, who, according to Livnat, will continue in his position, criticized various municipalities for denying permission to install cellular phone transmitters on rooftops due to "unfounded"

fears that they endanger health. "A bunch of them emit less electromagnetic radiation than a personal computer," he said.

Livnat has asked the Justice Ministry to investigate quickly the possibility of regularly debiting the Palestinian Authority's debts to Bezeq for overseas calls from the money Israel pays the PA. Although this was done once last month, the PA's debts to the phone company continue to mount, she added.

Regarding the previous government's adoption of the Boaz Committee's recommendations to abolish the ministry and replace it with a professional telecommunications authority, Livnat said she has not yet read the report, but will consider it after consulting with other ministries which have complained about being left out of previous talks on the issue.

## BUSINESS IN BRIEF

**Saudi looks to gold mining to diversify economy:** Saudi Arabia is pressing ahead with plans to develop four new gold and silver mines in a move to help diversify the oil-dependent economy, mining executives in the kingdom said yesterday.

Although the four mines will not make Riyadh a challenger to gold-heavyweight producers South Africa and the US, they will go some way in diversifying the economy and providing jobs in remote parts of the desert kingdom.

Saudi state-owned General Organization for Petroleum and Minerals (Petromin) is behind the projects, which are forecast to double the country's annual gold output of around eight tons within five years.

"In the next three years there should be four new gold projects onstream and one magnesite project," one executive, who declined to be identified, said. *Reuter*

## Gov't approves Saudi sheep imports to PA

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

AFTER weeks of political wrangling, the Agriculture Ministry will allow the Palestinian Authority to import 10,500 sheep from Saudi Arabia, the ministry announced yesterday.

In June, former agriculture minister Ya'acov Tsur rejected the PA's request due to fears that the meat might be infected with certain diseases. The sheep, which were slaughtered in April during *Id al-Adha* (the Muslim feast of the sacrifice), were to be given as a gift to the poor.

A few days ago, the PA announced that as a result of Israel's decision, the authority would boycott Israeli meat imports. Israel countered with a threat to boycott fruits and vegetables from the territories. Only then, the two sides agreed to discuss the issue in a meeting yesterday between ministry director-general Danny Kritchman and PA deputy general of agriculture Atia Abu Keresch.

After the meeting, and a review of data gathered by Palestinian and Israeli veterinarians, Kritchman announced the decision to allow the PA to import the Saudi mutton as long as it is deboned at a special processing center located near the Erez Checkpoint.

"This was a special request from the Palestinian Authority that we agreed to because of the Palestinians' difficult conditions," ministry spokesman Danny Hassid said referring to food shortages in the autonomous region.

Although deboning the meat minimizes health dangers, it is generally considered too laborious a process for meat sold commercially.

Israel only imports meat that is on the bone from eight countries, all of which have open relationships and data exchange arrangements regarding the animals' health. Saudi Arabia and Israel have no such arrangement.

## Israeli medicines cheaper than in Europe, US - survey

JUDY SIEGEL

AN "average basket" of pharmaceuticals is cheaper in Israel than in Europe and in the US, according to a survey conducted by the Manufacturers Association pharmaceutical branch. Moshe Manor, branch chairman, said yesterday that the average basket of drugs in England is 19 percent higher than here, while in Belgium and in Holland, the cost is 69% and 92% higher respectively.

Contrary to "myths" about pill-popping Israelis, Manor said that annual per capita use of medications here is among the lowest in the world. The survey compared local usage with 18 western European countries and the US.

Each Israeli uses an average of \$94 worth of medications per year compared with \$284 in the US, \$245 in France, \$231 in Germany, \$226 in Italy, \$205 in Switzerland, \$154 in Canada, \$123 in Holland, and \$112 in Britain. Only in Ireland (\$76) and in Greece (\$89) are the figures lower.

The pharmaceutical industry here is very competitive, with a large number of suppliers and only a handful of institutional buyers (the health funds), Manor said. During the past six years, the price of drugs has eroded by an average of 33% compared with the Cost-of-Living index, he added.

## Big business joins Knesset social lobby

EVELYN GORDON

CAL politics took an odd turn yesterday when the Manufacturers Association momentarily joined the Knesset's social lobby.

Association director-general Yoram Belizovsky was welcomed with open arms at a meeting of the lobby in the Knesset yesterday, where he came to protest the planned cuts in investment grants, from a maximum level of 34 percent to 20%.

Belizovsky, backed by many MKs from both sides of the fence in both the social lobby and the Knesset Finance Committee, protested that reducing these grants would stop all industrial investment in development towns. Such investment is especially important, Belizovsky

said, because industry supplies 34% of all jobs in development towns - twice the national average.

Speaking at a Knesset Finance Committee meeting earlier in the day, however, Finance Minister Meridor strongly defended the planned cuts.

Less than 10% of all investment in Israel makes use of the grants, he said, and only 27% of industrial investment uses them. It is true that 100% of investment in development towns does use the grants, he continued, but that is only because it is available - a company would have to be foolish not to take the offered money.



Jahanara Begum, the sole authorized woman trader at the Dhaka Stock Exchange points to another dealer on the trading floor of the stock market in the Bangladesh capital. Share prices on the DSE have been rising sharply due to the current political stability in the country after last month's elections. *(Reuters)*

## Gov't: Local sea waves unfit for producing power

DAVID HARRIS

IT is not economically viable to generate electricity through wave energy along Israel's coastline, the Energy Ministry said yesterday, in response to a request by a local company for business.

"It just wouldn't work here," said the ministry's director of R&D Avraham Arbib. The company, A.B. Eiz Deco, received a US patent for its wave energy power station design, but has not received orders in Israel.

"It's our policy to use energy sources which are readily available in Israel," said Arbib. "In the summer our waves produce 3 kilowatts per meter, and in the winter 10, with an average of 7. In some countries they have 40 to 50 per meter," he added.

So far the country's sole electricity generator, the Israel Electric Company, has failed to register an interest with Deco. "We are neither for nor against," said company spokeswoman Yael Ne'eman.

However, Deco's managing director Shmuel Ovadia believes electricity can be generated along Israel's shores. "It's economical to do it here, even though the waves aren't that high," he said.

Three years ago they [the government ministries and other agencies] laughed, now they're beginning to see the serious side of this," said Ovadia.

According to the company, wind-generated electricity will cost 2 to 3 cents per kilowatt hour,

roughly a third of what is currently paid by Israeli users of fossil fuels.

Deco Ltd. is set to sign two contracts to supply three wave energy power stations, for the Australian ABB Engineering Construction Ltd. The stations, whose output will be up to 50 megawatts of electricity each, will take two years to build, at a cost of \$1 million each. "This is half the price of a similar sized regular power station," said Ovadia.

ABB intends to set up the stations on Australia's southwest coast, where the waves from the Indian Ocean are said to be excellent for producing electricity. The generated electricity would then be distributed by the State Electrical Corporation.

The production of electricity from wave energy has the support of the World Bank, which is prepared to grant loans to some such schemes in developing and Third World countries.

Currently, a consortium of Indian investors is looking to buy stations with the Ovadia patent for erection across a 600km stretch of the south Indian coast. The World Bank's Industry and Energy Department has shown some interest in this project and will consider getting it funding.

Ovadia is hoping to sign contracts with electricity producers in Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, Brazil, Thailand and the Philippines.

## Porush critical of plan to abandon apartment-building scheme

DAVID HARRIS

DEPUTY Housing Minister Meir Porush lashed out yesterday at the cabinet's proposal to abandon the "build your own apartment" scheme, introduced under the previous government,

saying it was a good method for providing affordable housing.

The program offers poorer people apartments at a 20 percent to 30 percent discount. Local councils publish tenders inviting builders to submit bids for construction. In this way, buyers do not pay developer's costs, only for building and land costs. Such apartments are allocated by lottery to families with ministry eligibility certificates.

It is thought the government chose to cut the program as part of its plan to cut the budget by \$4.9 billion because it was criticized in this year's State Comptroller's Report, published in May. The ministry was found to be losing money because it was spending too

much in subsidizing development work.

Officials yesterday rejected the suggestion that the government is coming down hard on the ministry because it has no voting rights in cabinet (as a deputy minister, Porush cannot vote).

The cuts, said a ministry source, will hit "exactly those we're meant to help. Our duty is to point out the disadvantages of this plan socially, economically and morally."

Abandoning the plan, which was launched in 1994, would save hundreds of millions of shekels, according to ministry estimates, but Porush believes that is not as important as the negative effect it will have on thousands of prospective home buyers.

Ministry staffers believe the new economic program will lead to a rise in house prices,

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Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.7.96)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6168	3.6738	—	—	3.5408
German mark	3.1488	3.1984	3.09	3.26	3.1700
Pound sterling	2.0858	2.0882	2.03	2.19	2.0855
French franc	4.8876	4.8888	4.80	5.04	4.8185
Japanese yen (100)	0.6101	0.6200	0.59	0.62	0.6144
Dutch florin	2.3484	2.3524	2.25	2.34	2.2855
Swiss franc	1.8408	1.8708	1.80	1.80	1.8180
Swedish krona	2.4979	2.5382	2.45	2.58	2.5128
Norwegian krone	0.4704	0.4780	0.45	0.48	0.4741
Denmark krone	0.4830	0.4838	0.47	0.50	0.4852
Finnish mark	0.5381	0.5448	0.52	0.56	0.5396
Canadian dollar	0.5748	0.5885	0.56	0.70	0.6800
Australian dollar	2.2970	2.3241	2.25	2.37	2.3121
S. African rand	2.4888	2.5402	2.45	2.58	2.5185
Belgian franc (10)	0.7289	0.7377	0.65	0.74	0.7307
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0201	1.0184	0.98	1.04	1.0087
Italian lira (1,000)	2.9980	2.9834	2.98	3.08	2.9857
Jordanian dinar	2.0588	2.0870	2.01	2.12	2.0894
Egyptian pound	4.3890	4.6900	4.38	4.68	4.4687
ECU	3.9123	3.8755	0.59	0.57	0.9988
Irish punt	5.8198	5.8045	4.92	5.17	5.0470
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4538	2.4534	2.41	2.53	2.4712

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel.  
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

02-241282

Key Representative Rates

Table with exchange rates for US dollar, Sterling, and Mark against NIS.

INFLATION

Table showing inflation rates for various countries and indices.

New York market indexes

Table with NYSE, NASDAQ, and S&P 500 market index data.

Other stock market indexes

Table with FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international stock indexes.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table listing Israeli stocks traded in New York with prices and changes.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Main table of Tel Aviv stock market data, including company names, prices, and volume.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Two-sided trading

Table of Tel Aviv stock market data, categorized by trading type (Two-sided).

Market down as local firms perform poorly on Wall St.

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190.49 -0.84%
202.53 -0.74%

Two-Sided index
Maof index
STOCK indexes fell as high interest rates lured investment away from stocks...

Teva was the most active share on the exchange, declining 2.5%... The market suffers from very high interest rates...

Whenever Teva's down, the whole market is down... He added that Teva's declines reflect sagging prices in other drug companies...

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries and companies.

Euro shares rise and fall on Wall St. nerves

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Europe's key share markets were torn between the urge to rise yesterday and the fear of being caught out by Wall Street's volatility...

Stocks end higher

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks closed higher yesterday as bargain hunters took advantage of four straight days of declines that had sent the Dow Jones industrial average down to its lowest point since May...

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table showing currency cross-rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, Sfr, and Ffr.

INFLATION

Table with dollar cross-rates and inflation data.

US commodities

Table with US commodity prices for various goods.

London commodities

Table with London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table with New York metal futures prices.

London metal futures

Table with London metal futures prices.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Large table of foreign financial data, including company names, prices, and changes.

# England takes Test series

NOTTINGHAM (Reuter) - England captain Mike Atherton was able to celebrate his second test series win after the third and final Test against India ended in a predictable draw at Trent Bridge yesterday.

England won the first Test at Edgbaston, by eight wickets. With the second match at Lord's also ending in a stalemate, the English were left to savor only their fourth series win in 14 attempts since 1985.

Unfortunately, the flat Nottingham pitch meant there was little in the match once England had passed the follow-on target on Saturday evening.

The final day provided little in the way of competitive cricket as India, after polishing off the England first innings in just 29 balls, reached 211 for nine when their declaration signaled the end of the match with the Indians leading by 168.

Saurav Ganguly produced another accomplished innings of 48 and Sachin Tendulkar took his run tally for the series to 428 in five innings as he made 74.

England's new all-rounder Mark Ealham, who made 51 in the first innings, had another good day taking four late wickets to finish with four for 21 as five Indian wickets fell for just seven runs.

The first of his victims was Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, still struggling with his injured shin, who holed out to Dominic Cork for just eight. His failure as both captain and batsman in this series may well mark the end of his captaincy, although he later gave an enigmatic response when asked he would return to England.

"I'm not sure. Probably not. Probably yes. Maybe I will be back for a county next year," he said.

The day began with India taking just 18 minutes to wrap up the England first innings for 564.

Once that was accomplished, the interest switched to Saurav Ganguly to see if he would be able to set an unprecedented record of three centuries in his first three test innings. He scored 131 at Lord's and then 136 in the first innings of this match.

The small crowd were denied even that statistical pleasure when Ganguly was bowled by



**GOT HIM** - England bowler Chris Lewis (left) celebrates as he takes the wicket of Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar during yesterday's match. (Reuter)

Dominic Cork midway through the afternoon session for a stylish 48.

Nayan Mongia batted solidly for his 45 but after Ganguly's dismissal it was left to Tendulkar and Ealham to provide some source of interest.

Atherton said afterwards that he was pleased with England's performance.

"We won well at Edgbaston and then got two draws when we were faced with big Indian totals so I am reasonably pleased with that," he said.

"But we have got Pakistan still to come so I can only say we have done half the job and there's half still to come."

ENGLAND						INDIA					
Batting	M	NO	R	HS	Avg	Batting	M	NO	R	HS	Avg
Nasser Hussain	3	5	129	75.2	25.8	Saurav Ganguly	2	3	315	138	105.0
Mike Atherton	3	5	1283	180	65.75	Sachin Tendulkar	3	5	428	177	65.60
Mark Ealham	1	0	51	51	51.00	Rahul Dravid	2	3	187	85	62.33
Graeme Thorpe	3	5	193	89	48.25	Paras Memon	2	3	158	28	29.00
Alan Shearer	2	3	138	86	45.33	Santny Menzies	2	4	185	53	26.25
Jack Russell	3	4	162	124	40.50	Nayan Mongia	3	5	107	46	21.40
Chris Lewis	3	4	78	31	26.00	Javagal Srinath	3	5	76	52	15.20
Ronnie Irani	2	3	0	0	0.00	Sunil Joshi	1	2	24	12	12.00
Min Patel	2	2	0	0	0.00	Vikram Rathore	3	4	46	20	11.50
Nick Knight	1	2	0	0	0.00	Venkatesh Prasad	3	5	17	13	8.50
Alan Mullaly	3	4	15	14	15.00	Mo Azharuddin	3	5	42	16	8.40
Peter Murray	1	2	0	0	0.00	Asif Kamble	3	5	36	15	7.20
Dominic Cork	3	4	77	30	12.33	Ajay Jadeja	2	3	16	10	5.33
Graeme Hick	3	4	35	20	8.75	Venkat Raju	1	2	1	1	1.00

# Florida is Ran's new home

EYAL Ran, Israel's No. 1 tennis player, left Israel two months ago and has set up his professional base in Miami, Florida.

In an interview with Israel Radio last night from Sao Paulo in Brazil where he is competing in a \$50,000 Challenger tournament, Ran scoffed rumors that he had left Israel permanently.

"My home is in Israel. All I did, for professional reasons, was to move to train overseas. I felt my tennis was not developing and I decided on the change in the hope of improving my world ranking. My goal is to get closer to the world's top 100 players by the

**HEATHER CHAIT**

end of the year."

Ran, 23, and 197 in the world singles rankings, admitted that he had not consulted the Israel Tennis Association or national team captain Shlomo Glickstein when making his decision, commenting, "I do not regard the ITA as a professional organization."

He added that the decision had been taken on the advice of family and close friends.

On the issue of representing Israel in Davis Cup competition, Ran said: "If I'm invited to play for the national team, naturally I

will play."

ITA chairman David Harnik's reaction was of a different nature, downplaying the seriousness of the matter. "The professional committee of the ITA decided in May to allocate \$8,000 to Ran to assist him in his travels and his training program. Ran has chosen to train with new players in a different atmosphere and for this, he decided to enter tournaments in Europe and South America. Afterwards he will train with a leading coach in Florida and prepare to take part in the American summer satellite circuit."

# Zabel wins stage, Jalabert drops out

GAP, France (AP) - Erik Zabel of Germany won his second stage of this year's Tour de France yesterday as summer weather returned to the race following nine days of snow, wind and rain.

Bjarne Riis retained the leader's yellow jersey after the 208-kilometer 10th stage from Turin, Italy to Gap, France.

World No. 1 Laurent Jalabert of France pulled out of the race 69 kilometers into the route.

Jalabert, suffering from gastroenteritis, was 31st overall, 25 minutes, 52 seconds behind Riis.

Today, the racers take their lone rest day of the 21-stage Tour that concludes July 21 in Paris.

Zabel, who won the Tour's third stage, edged Djambolind Abdonjapurov of Uzbekistan and

Italy's Andrea Ferrigato.

"It's an extraordinary stage because our team rode the perfect race," said Zabel whose Telekom team kept Riis in the overall lead and chased down Danish rider Rolf Sorensen in the final stretch.

Miguel Indurain finds himself in an unusual position in the Tour de France - well behind the leaders as the race nears its half-way point.

Indurain, who won the four for the last five years, is in eighth place and four minutes, 38 seconds behind Riis.

Indurain, who turns 32 on July 16, is trying to become the first man to win a record six tours.

Only three others have managed to win five - Jacques Anquetin, Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault. And if Indurain wants to

eclipse them, the Spaniard has his work cut out for him.

Indurain now must become the attacker in the race, where usually he is the one being attacked by challengers trying to chip away at the lead Indurain usually held.

Now Indurain must try those tactics, as he did Monday.

The course heads across France's Massif Central for a string of moderate to long stages featuring several short, but steep climbs.

The Tour heads into the Pyrenees and then into Spain for a stage July 17 that ends near Indurain's hometown. The second time trial July 20 will likely crown the overall winner before the final ceremonial spin through Paris July 21.

# Bonds wins homer bash

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Barry Bonds borrowed a bat to steal the home run derby title back from the American League.

The San Francisco star beat Oakland's Mark McGwire in a Bay Area final of the Home Run Derby, capping a sweltering Monday of All-Star festivities.

Bonds, using a bat belonging to Houston's Derek Bell, out-homered McGwire 3-2 in the final to become the first National League player to win the contest since Ryne Sandberg in 1990.

"The highlight of my career," Bonds said.

The home run contest was in preparation for the All-Star game, which was played late last night.

# SPORTS BRIEFS

**NBA lockout imposed, then lifted**  
The National Basketball Association yesterday lifted what was probably the shortest lockout in sports history after the league and its players agreed to finalize their collective bargaining agreement.

As a result, the players agreed to extend the moratorium on signings, negotiations and trades until tomorrow.

Superstars Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal and All-Stars Reggie Miller, Gary Payton, John Stockton, Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo headline the free agent bonanza. *Reuter*

**Saunders signs for Nottingham Forest**  
Wales international Dean Saunders signed for Nottingham Forest on Monday, returning to the English Premier League after one season in Turkey with Galatasaray.

Saunders signed in a £1.5 million deal on the same day that Forest completed the transfer of Croatian defender Nikola Jerkan.

"I always set myself a target of 20 goals each season and I'm not going to change now," said Saunders, who scored 21 times in 28 games for Galatasaray after joining them from Aston Villa. *Reuter*

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# Social caucus declares war on government budget plan

EVELYN GORDON

AN unusually well attended meeting of the Knesset's social caucus declared war on the government's budget-cutting plan yesterday, and decided to prepare an alternate plan.

More than 15 MKs from across the political spectrum came to express their anger over plans to cut child allowances for those earning above a certain income, raise public transportation rates, reduce investment grants in development towns and cancel the Demobilized Soldiers Law, though opposition MKs were in the majority.

"What happened?" asked MK Silvan Shalom (Likud) in mock amazement at the turnout. "You were in the government for four years, and I never saw half of you in the social caucus!"

Caucus chairman Shaul Amor (Likud), who opened the meeting, said its purpose was "to explain to the public that this plan is extremely harsh, even awful, as far as it relates to the poor, and also to the middle class."

"These economic decrees will not contribute anything to the growth of the economy," he added.

Labor MKs Rafi Elui and Yossi Katz quickly followed with their own bitter attacks on the government, but the tone moderated slightly after Shalom protested.

"If this is a forum to fight against the government, count me out. But if it's a forum to fight for the poor, then I'm in," he said. "If anyone thinks the coalition will oppose the government, he's mistaken. But we do want to sit down [with them] and change the composition [of the cuts]."

Meir Sheerit (Likud) was the only coalition MK who openly called for voting against the budget if the government did not agree to the caucus's demands.

Most in the caucus accepted the principle of budget cuts, but objected to where they were being made.

Only a few, such as Anat Maor (Meretz) and Avner Shaki (NRP), insisted that there was no need for NIS 5 billion in cuts.

Several MKs also objected to the fact that part of the government's plan involved the repeal of newly passed and expensive laws, such as the Demobilized Soldiers Law and the Senior Citizens Law.

"There is no country in the world where a law is passed and then repealed four months later," said Moshe Shahal (Labor), adding that this damages the country's stability.

Opposition MKs also tried to persuade the government that it was being politically stupid.

"It's no secret that the Likud came to power precisely because of the massive support of the weaker members of society," said Addisu Messala (Labor).

Development town mayors, meanwhile, came to the meeting in force to protest the planned cuts in investment grants.

"There is no other tool for persuading investors to come to the periphery," said Kiryat Gat Mayor Ze'ev Boim, who is also a Likud MK. "There is no country in the world that doesn't encourage investors via such grants."

In a rare twist, the Manufacturers Association also declared itself a member of the social lobby, sending director-general Yoram Belizovsky to protest the investment grant cuts. (See related story on business page)

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, who was invited to respond to the caucus, praised the group for its efforts to moderate the plan's effects on the poor, and said he would cooperate in these efforts. However, he warned, MKs should refrain from unrealistic expectations.

"I don't know of any [budget-cutting] plan that only hurts the rich," he said. "I wish someone would show me such a plan."

## MK Poraz comes out in favor of budget cuts

EVELYN GORDON

THE government got a vote of support for its economic program from an unexpected source yesterday, when MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz) came out in favor of it.

Poraz announced his support in a press release circulated to Knesset reporters.

"The principles which [Finance Minister Dan Meridor] presented are in the right direction and he deserves backing for these steps, because the Israeli economy has fallen into a situation in which there is no choice other than cutting the budget," Poraz wrote.

He also scored his fellow opposition MKs, as well as many in the coalition, for admitting in principle that a budget cut is necessary but opposing it in practice whenever a specific proposal is made. At a

meeting of the Knesset Finance Committee earlier, coalition and opposition MKs had been virtually unanimous in agreeing that a budget cut of about the size proposed by Meridor had to be made, but objected strenuously to the particular items the government chose to cut.

"We must utterly uproot this phenomenon of everyone supporting a budget cut in general, but when it comes down to details, opposing the specific item cuts," Poraz wrote.

He praised Meridor for deciding not to cut government participation in employers' national insurance payments, despite heavy pressure to do so from the social lobby. Cutting this item would only have led to increased unemployment by making it more expensive to hire workers, he said.



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein (right), in his first official visit as a minister, chats with new immigrant children at a summer camp in Ramle. (Yitzhak Eshar/Scoop 80)

## Interior Ministry warns of forged visas

EVELYN GORDON

A veritable industry has developed here to produce false documentation for illegal foreign workers, Batya Carmon, head of the Interior Ministry's visa division, told the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday.

The two most common techniques, she said, are a forged document from the worker's country of origin stating that he is Jewish, or fictitious marriages. Manpower agencies who specialize in importing illegal workers sometimes help these workers document their borrowed identities, she added. Carmon said she filed a complaint with the police about two manpower agencies that forged Israeli visas for Turkish workers.

Carmon said Israel has become a magnet for illegal foreign workers, some of whom have even succeeded in smuggling their families in. She said there are many foreign children here who are not registered with the ministry.

Alex Paron, director-general of the Government Employment Service, told the committee that, according to his office's estimate, there are about 150,000 illegal foreign workers here.

"We are already talking about more than 250,000 foreign workers here [in total], and only 102,000 received permits from the

Employment Service," he said. "The police and the Interior Ministry are responsible for this."

Committee chairman Elio Goldschmidt (Labor) demanded that the Interior Ministry present the committee with its plans for combating this problem.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai announced yesterday that he and Interior Minister Eli Suissa are setting up an interministerial committee to investigate all aspects of the employment of foreign workers. The committee, to consist of representatives from the Treasury, police, and Interior and Labor ministries, is to file an initial report within 30 days.

## Pensioners demand 'lost COL indexes'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

SOME 175,000 pensioners of the Histadrut pension funds Mivtahim, Makefet and Keren Gimlat Merkazit are threatening a public campaign against the government to demand a change in the pension payment system that will give them more timely linkage to the cost of living index.

The retirees get their monthly pension payments on the fifth of each month, while the COL Index for the previous month is published only 10 days later, on the 15th. Thus, the pensioners are always behind one index, which has resulted in cumulative losses estimated at hundreds of millions of shekels.

Two months ago, the Histadrut, pensioners organizations' leaders and former finance minister Avraham Shohat reached an agreement to correct this. According to the agreement, the pension-payment system would be changed immediately, and the pensioners would get a one-time grant as compensation for several years' worth of "lost" indexes.

Now, following the election, the pensioners fear the agreement might be revoked, since the

Treasury official in charge of the capital market, Doron Shorer, has not yet signed the agreement.

Hundreds of pensioners' organization activists met yesterday to decide on their next moves, unless the Treasury makes the changes immediately.

MK Yossi Katz, former chairman of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee and one of the signatories to the agreement, recommended that the pensioners file suit against the state to force the Treasury and finance minister to honor the agreement.

In another development, the Na'amot women's organization is launching a campaign against the slashing of child allowances.

Signatures will be collected protesting the economic directives at counters set up at Na'amot's 350 day-care centers and in downtown areas.

Na'amot is planning to greet the Netanyahu family on their return from the US next week with a demonstration at which protesters will hold up posters contrasting the conditions of the Netanyahu children with those of Israel's needy children.

SEVERAL Ministers and MKs have said they are prepared to forego their own wage hike in view of the government's budget cuts.

Many called in to Israel Radio's "It's All Talk" show in support of the suggestion. But the program is aptly named and it is unlikely that a way will be found to translate the words into deeds as this demands the approval of the Knesset House Committee.

The wages of ministers, MKs, mayors and ministerial director-generals are scheduled to rise between 33% and 40% in October at a cost of NIS 100 million a year. The hike is the result of a decision of the Knesset House Committee two months ago. An MK's wage is currently approximately NIS 15,000 gross a month which is expected to jump to NIS 20,000 gross in October. Minister's wages will increase from some NIS 16,000 gross a month to NIS 22,463.

Three Cabinet members - Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai - have said

## Ministers and MKs ready to forego wage rise

LIAT COLLINS

they are willing to give up the wage hike. Eitan said he is even willing to accept a wage cut. "The government should serve as an example," he said. He said he had raised the subject at the first Cabinet meeting on the budget cuts.

All nine Meretz MKs have volunteered to waive the wage hike although none of them objected to the salary increase when the committee discussed it.

Likud MKs Na'omi Blumenthal and Avraham Herschson also said they are prepared to forego the hike. "All levels of the public have to accept part of the eco-

nomical burden. If it's demanded of the weaker levels, those people of means - including MKs and ministers - must set an example by going first," Herschson said. Herschson, who chairs the National Workers Union (Leumi), said the economic policy necessitates the forming of an apolitical umbrella group to represent all workers, above the Histadrut and other trade unions.

New Labor MKs Addisu Messala and Ophir Pines also spoke in favor of canceling the wage rise. Pines called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu "to lead a less lavish life-style" as a personal example.

## BB King here for concert

STEVE RODAN

BLUES musician BB King returns here after a decade-long absence for a concert tomorrow at Jerusalem's International Convention Center.

King credited his longtime manager Sidney Seidenberg with adding Israel to his current Western European tour.

"Every so often, we want to go back to places that we haven't been to in a long time," King said, in a phone interview from Spain. "Israel is one of those places."

"Besides, my manager is Jewish," he added. "It kind of is his home state, and Israel is a treat to play."

The 70-year-old King is regarded as a pioneer in modern blues. As a guitarist and singer, he has released 74 albums since 1948, including several Grammy winners.

His rich single-string guitar playing has been emulated by numerous rock and blues artists, including Eric Clapton and Buddy Guy.

King has performed with numerous stars, including the Rolling Stones, the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, Robert Cray, Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. Like Charles, King is a stylist who mostly records material written by others. In the early 1970s, King reached high on the pop charts with "The Thrill is Gone."

Despite battling diabetes and hypertension, King remains a workaholic. He gave 260 concerts last year, a pace he is maintaining



"We've been true to the music and the people," says blues great BB King, who is performing in Jerusalem tomorrow.

This year, "If it was not for traveling," King said, "I might have fallen by the wayside."

After nearly 50 years of recording, King said he is not bored with the blues. "There are many shades of blues, my friend," he said, "and they still keep me interested."

"We've made five-year plans," he added. "We've already made plans for five years from today. And, we've been true to the music and the people. I don't try to be anything but BB King."

"I don't play jazz, rock 'n roll, soul or gospel. But I kind of border the line of all of them."

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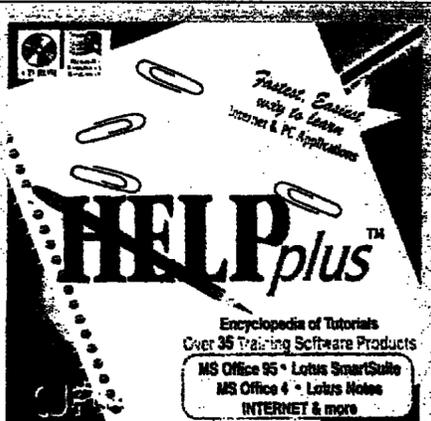
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